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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

GMS wins tree décor contest

ERWIN ENCINARES

Green Meadow School students and teachers receive their $5,000 check presented by Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion after winning first place in the 15th Annual Christmas tree decoration contest.

See more photos on Page 14

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public and private schools went home last Saturday with extra cash for the holidays by participating in the annual Christmas tree decoration contest, float competition, and caroling competition during the celebration of Christmas in the Marianas 2016 at the Paseo de Marianas.

See GMS on Page 4

Underdog tops CNMI Got Talent

By MICHAEL T SANTOS
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REPORTER

It seems third time's the charm for Out of the Ordinary singing group.

In its third time to compete, Out of the Ordinary finally won the annual CNMI Got Talent competition by Bridge Capital LLC last Saturday at Saipan World Resort with a bilingual performance.

See UNDERDOG on Page 4

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Members of Out of the Ordinary group pose with their mentors and judges for the awarding of their first place check during Bridge Capital's annual CNMI Got Talent held in World Resort Saipan on Dec. 17.

2 men hurt in vehicle accidents

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two men were injured in two separate vehicular accidents along Chalan Pale Arnold in Chalan Laulau and on Beach Road in Susupe late Friday afternoon and night.

In the Chalan Laulau accident, a 38-year-old local resident had swelling above his right eye and abrasions to the right leg. He told police and medics he felt dizzy but refused to be brought to the hospital.

In the Susupe accident, a 67-year-

See 2 MEN on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Police officer Norris Kwon investigates an auto-motorcycle collision while Police Sgt. Anthony Macaranas controls traffic flow along Chalan Pale Arnold in Chalan Laulau late Friday afternoon. Also in the photo are medics from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services who are preparing to transport the injured motorcyclist to the hospital.

Federal warrant sought to inspect casino site

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez has requested the federal court to issue an *ex parte* warrant to inspect the Imperial Pacific Resort construction project in Garapan after an Occupational Safety and Health Administration tried, but was denied entry, to inspect the site to investigate the alleged

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INSIDE

NATION
Donald Trump says Michelle Obama's 'no hope' comment was about the past.
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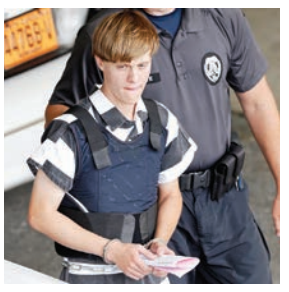

FOCUS
A white man who harbored dreams of launching a race war is convicted in a trial.
PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE
Ryan Reynolds is the latest celebrity to earn a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
PAGE 21

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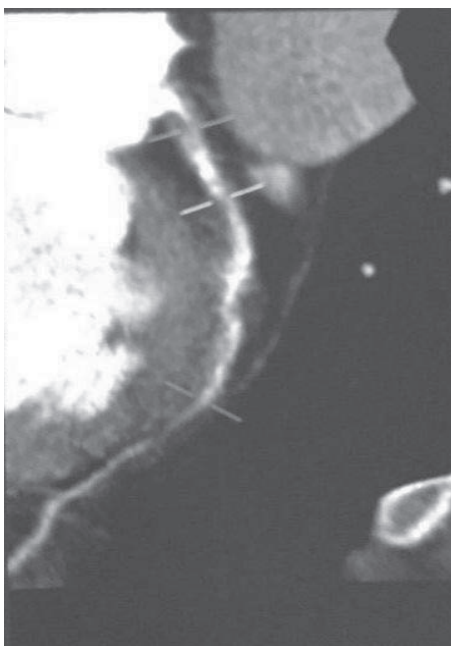

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Local

Applicants sought for grant program

HILO, Hawaii—USDA Rural Development state director for Hawaii and the Western Pacific Chris Kanazawa announced Friday the agency is seeking applications for the Rural Business Development Grant Program. RBDG grants are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations and federally recognized tribal groups to finance and facilitate various business opportunity or business enterprise projects that serve rural areas.

"Access to capital is a critical component to helping our rural businesses create jobs and build stronger, more vibrant rural communities," said Kanazawa. "This grant program is an important tool to help provide those financial resources many businesses wouldn't otherwise have access to."

The RBDG program can assist with targeted technical assistance such as marketing and feasibility studies and business plans, purchasing equipment for small and emerging businesses, creating a revolving loan fund, and supporting rural distance learning programs for educational or job training.

Applications are due by close of business on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017.

Last year, USDA Rural Development assisted five organizations with RBDG awards in Hawaii and the Western Pacific for a total of $165,000 in grant funds. For example, the University of Hawaii utilized a $24,555 RBDG award to provide technical assistance which included a business plan and feasibility study that will assist four new aquaculture farmers.

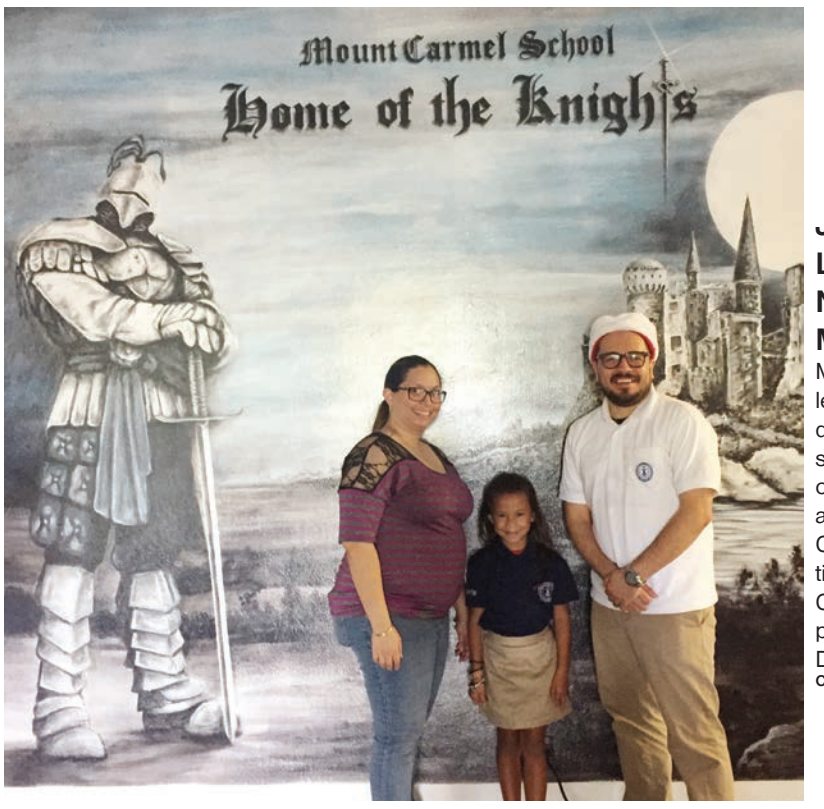
For more information on the RBDG program, or to request application materials contact a Business Programs specialist serving your area:

- Hawaii County and Maui County: Lori M. Nekoba, lori.nekoba@hi.usda.gov or 808-933-8312
- Oahu, Kauai, and American Samoa: Shirley M. U. Heatherly, shirely.heatherly@hi.usda.gov or 808-541-2600 Ext. 139
- Western Pacific: Anthony Barcinas, Anthony.barcinas@pb.usda.gov or 671-300-8567

Since 2009, USDA Rural Development has helped more than 1.2 million rural residents buy homes; funded nearly 9,200 community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care facilities; and invested more than $14 billion to start or expand nearly 122,000 rural businesses.

USDA also invested $38.6 billion in 1,057 electric projects that have financed more than 198,000 miles of transmission and distribution lines serving 4.6 million rural residents; and helped bring high-speed internet access to nearly 6 million rural residents and businesses. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/results. ***(USDA)***

ETC CONTRIBUTION
Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, left, recently received an Education Tax Credit contribution from J&A Enterprises, presented by, from right to left, Jimmy Ham, Justin Gragasin, and Jim Michael Ham.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



JEM CO. LTD. DONATES TO MCS
Maggie Kaipat, left, and her daughter Cassidee Flores recently presented an Education Tax Credit contribution to Mount Carmel School's president Galvin Deleon Guerrero.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Small craft advisory until Thursday

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, fresh to strong winds will make sailing difficult this week in Marianas waters. Additionally, the winds will also produce seas of 7 to 9 feet that build to between 8 and 10 feet by evening.

A small craft advisory is in effect until 6pm Thursday. A small craft advisory means that wind speeds of 21 to 33 knots are expected to produce wave conditions hazardous to small craft.

The EOC is advising the public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid sailing in these conditions. ***(EOC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Christmas Concert at the Multi-Purpose

The Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band with the Marianas High School Glee Cub Rhythm 'N Harmony will be presenting its Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 18, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Cultural Center in Susupe. Doors open at 4pm and the concert begins at 4:30pm. Tickets are $5.

Air force training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Dec. 20-22, from 8:30am to 10pm. The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the date and times indicated. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00»N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. ***(PR)***

Kagman cluster schools' PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster schools will be having a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2016, at 5pm in the Kagman High School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents and guardians to attend this meeting. Please call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

Water outages in Oleai, CK

Residents of Oleai and Chalan Kanoa will experience daily water service interruption until Dec. 23. The interruptions will be from 3am to 5am, as part of an ongoing leak detection program. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Cop. Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(PR)***

IP host gov.mp temporarily down

This is to inform the general public that the IP host gov.mp will temporarily be down until further notice. As a result, certain department websites will be down for maintenance. ***(PR)***

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2 MEN

From Page 1

old Japanese national sustained 3-inch lacerations on the crown of his head and had bruising and swelling to the left side of his head.

As of press time yesterday, the Department of Public Safety had yet to release information about the two incidents and who were found at fault.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde said yesterday that on Friday at 5:04pm, DFEMS received a call from 911 about an auto-motorcycle incident in Chalan Laulau.

Gersonde said medics from the Susupe fire station came upon the injured man, who stated he was heading south along Chalan Pale Arnold Road (Middle Road) when a vehicle that was heading north did a U-turn and came into his lane.

Medics tried to use a cervical collar and spine board on him but he refused. He was later brought to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room. Gersonde said updates on the victim's treatment and status at CHC should be referred to the CHC information officer.

The accident, which happened in front of Dexter Laundry Services, snarled traffic on the southbound lane for an hour.

In the second accident, DFEFMS received a call Friday at 6:10pm from 911 about an auto-pedestrian accident on Beach Road, Susupe.

DFEMS medics from the Susupe fire station came upon the Japanese man, who was lying on the ground in front of Saipan World Resort.

Medics used a cervical collar and spine board to prevent any further injuries to the victim.

Medics' assessment showed that the victim was hit on vehicle's front driver's side highlights and he went up and over the vehicle. The victim was transported to CHC's emergency room.

Gersonde said updates on the patient's treatment and status at CHC should be referred to the CHC information officer.

Meanwhile, DFEMS released yesterday some details about the 40-minute car chase that ended when the car hit an embankment and overturned in Koblerville in the evening last Dec. 9.

Gersonde said at 10:56pm, DFEMS received a call from DPS 911 about a vehicle that overturned.

Medics from the Susupe fire station responded and came upon two injured men.

Medics said the first man, a 31-year-old Chamorro who was the passenger of the vehicle, was handcuffed and seated outside the vehicle.

Upon assessment, Gersonde said, medics found a bump on the back of the passenger's head.

When the medics' assessment was ongoing, the passenger was uncooperative with them.

Gersonde said medics saw the second man, a 31-year-old Chamorro man who was the driver.

Gersonde said the driver was handcuffed and lying on the ground outside the vehicle.

Upon assessment, the driver stated he had pain on the back of his right shoulder blade. He also sustained three small cuts on the forehead and a half-inch cut on the left leg.

When he was further asked, the driver allegedly refused to comply with medics.

As both the driver and passenger were not cooperative, both were released back to the custody of police officers, Gersonde said

He said any information regarding the vehicle and or cause of the accident is referred to DPS.

Police earlier disclosed that the driver was Vincent San Nicolas Norita and the passenger was Joe E. Ada.

Police said Norita was arrested on charges of theft of a vehicle, causing accidents, reckless driving, eluding a police officer, and receiving stolen items.

Ada was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

UNDERDOG

From Page 1

The group sang *O Come All Ye Faithful* as well as *Sana Ngayong Pasko* [Hopefully, This Christmas], grabbing the first place prize as well as the Governor's Choice Award.

Out of the Ordinary has competed in the last three CNMI Got Talent competitions, landing in second place each time. This year they walked off with $4,000 in total prizes.

Josephine Estrada, a member of Out of the Ordinary, said, "This is actually the biggest accomplishment we've had. We've been here for three years, trying to prove ourselves worthy to be grand champions and finally, despite all the frustration, we got it. I can't even find words to describe the feeling."

They were originally created to compete in a Battle of the Bands contest but they continued as a team and pushed for more challenging musical tournaments.

Another member, Leonard Manuel, said, "If you really take into account all the nights we've spent practicing [and] trying to master the song, to have people recognize our talents and choose us as first place, is really an uplifting feeling."

Looking back at all past performances, the group thought of adding a little more variety into their performance, hence the other song being in another language.

"With the crowd we would have, since we live on a small island, we thought it would be best to add a little culture and [a different] language to cater to more people. Of course we won't please everyone, but we're happy with the outcome," Estrada said.

John Jimeno, a mentor of Out of the Ordinary, said, "It's been a long road for this group. They've been competing for the past three years and this is the first time they've come on top. It's just an amazing feeling."

This year's competition may just have been the biggest one yet for Bridge Capital, with 10 acts competing for over $7,000 in cash.

Second place went to Lawrence Tubera with a $1,500 cash prize. Third place was Little Body Movers, with $1,000, and Scene X was fourth, with $750. Finishing up was Demalyn Sablan at fifth place with $500.

Judges for the event were Philippine honorary consul Glicerio Arago, CNMI Senate Vice President Arnold Palacios, CNMI Arts Council's Gloriana Teuira; John Oliver Gonzalez, chief of staff of the lieutenant governor's office, and Alex Sablan, vice president of TanHoldings as well as secretary of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

FEDERAL

From Page 1

death of a worker and other accidents that caused serious injuries.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Perez's request, but MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co., which operates a construction contracting business at the project, filed an emergency motion on Friday to quash the warrant.

The hearing was set for Friday at 5pm. The case was unsealed on Friday at about 6pm. It's not clear yet whether Manglona granted or denied MCC's motion to quash.

Meanwhile, Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. downplayed last Friday's protest by more than 50 Chinese workers, saying they are not involved in the issue and it is between two parties not connected with the Hong Kong-based conglomerate.

A group of construction workers gathered late Friday afternoon beside the site where the multimillion dollar Imperial Pacific Resort is being built, demanding subcontractor Sino Great Wall International Engineering to pay their wages.

Their protest drew attention from tourists and other residents in the Garapan area, and at the same time caused a little bit of traffic.

The protesters are demanding to get paid from the hours that they worked to build the casino-hotel. They are claiming that Sino Great Wall International Engineering has not paid their wages after months of work.

Details were limited and Sino Great Wall had not issued any statement as of press time.

IPI clarified in a statement that they are not involved in the dispute. "IPI states that the protest involves a dispute between Sino Great Wall Int'l Engr. (CNMI) Co. LLC and its employees."

"The dispute does not involve IPI. IPI reassures the CNMI that its ongoing construction of its multimillion-dollar facility is not affected and will continue as scheduled. IPI is hopeful that the parties will resolve the dispute amicably and in a timely manner," added IPI on its statement.

Perez, through assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto, said the Labor investigation arose due to an online complaint by a doctor working at the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room reporting serious injuries at the project on a daily basis.

The doctor reported that employees arrived at the hospital with two instances of amputations and two instances of falls that resulted in serious fractures, said Benedetto in Perez's memorandum in support of the *ex parte* application for inspection warrant.

Ex parte means an application to the court by one of the parties to the action without the other party being present or heard.

In addition, Benedetto said, MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co. reported to OSHA that an onsite worker had a heart attack and died last Dec. 4.

On Friday, MCC, through counsels Robert J. O'Connor and Joseph E. Horey, filed the emergency motion to quash the warrant for inspection.

O'Connor and Horey said the warrant application was not supported by proper administrative probable cause.

Under the fourth amendment to the U.S. Constitution, a warrant is required for non-consensual administrative searches, including OSHA inspections, O'Connor and Horey said.

The lawyers said the warrant is extremely broad and covers the entire operation and entire premises.

"MCC is unaware of the existence of any complaint or any plan sufficient to justify issuance of warrant of such scope, and it therefore appears that the warrant has been issued without sufficient probable cause and should be quashed," O'Connor and Horey said.

MCC is a corporation that operates a construction contracting business and conducts business that affects interstate commerce by using phone lines and internet services to order materials and supplies between China and Saipan, Benedetto said. In addition, MCC buyd fuel for their vehicles such as cranes, trucks, loaders, and backhoes.

MCC and its contractors employ approximately 1,800 employees.

Benedetto said that, on Dec. 6, 2016, OSHA compliance safety and health officer Rick Foster arrived at the construction project to conduct a safety and health inspection following a reported death at the worksite and a complaint reported to OSHA.

Benedetto said that, according to Foster's declaration, he spoke with Michael Fejeran, the site safety officer, who told Foster to wait until their legal representative could be contacted in order to attend the opening conference.

After an hour, Foster began his opening conference with Fejeran, safety consultant Javier Dayat, safety consultant David Rollera, Best Sunshine regulatory and compliance officer Deb Camacho, project manager for Gold Mantis Aldon Wong, and others identified as Chan Sam Gazy, Ren Deping Jasen, Liu Yuan Xiong, and Alvin Zhem.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

GMS

From Page 1

Green Meadow School won the Christmas tree decorating contest, along with second and eighth places for the caroling competition for middle school and elementary school divisions, respectively, earning the school a total of $5,600.

Milagros Songcuan, Green Meadow principal, was ecstatic about the win. She said that Green Meadow School has consistently been in the Top 3 in the Christmas tree decorating contest.

"I am very happy for the students and teachers and, of course, for the community. This is our second time to [be in the top 3]. Last year we were in second place; [in] 2014 we were first," she said.

Songcuan said the students' parents cooperated by helping provide recyclable materials that the school could work with.

"It's such a good blessing for the school because we are really trying to help the students," she added.

She said that part of the money would be used to fund the construction of an additional classroom for its middle school. "We are going to build another classroom for the middle school," she said.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion was pleased with the turnout.

"The crowd was alive and well; the holiday spirit was alive and well in the CNMI. The MVA is happy to put together these kinds of events to provide activities for our tourists as well as our residents, so we thank our partners who helped put this thing together because we cannot do this alone," said Concepcion.

In his message to festival participants, Concepcion said: "Thank you for [coming]. Without their participation, it wouldn't be what it is, so I wish them a very merry Christmas, good success, good health in 2017, and we welcome you to join us next year."

Second place in the Christmas tree decorating contest went to the Northern Marianas International School while third place went to Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, earning the schools $3,000 and $2,000, respectively. The decorating contest requires participants to decorate a Christmas tree using recycled materials.

Oleai Elementary School won first place in the elementary school division of the caroling competition, San Vicente Elementary School won second place, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School won third place, earning each school $1,000, $450, and $300 respectively.

Northern Marianas International School won first place in the middle school division of the caroling competition, while Green Meadow School bagged second, and Agape Christian School got third. Each school won $1,000, $450, and $300, respectively.

The Christmas skit contest was won by Saipan Southern High School, with Agape Christian High School, and Marianas High School following close. Each school won $1,000, $450, and $300, respectively.

Christmas in the Marianas is an MVA-hosted annual festival that spans through Dec. 3, 10, 17, 23, and 30 at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Timing of 902 report a concern

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) is concerned if ever there's still time to implement the results of the four rounds of the Section 902 talks between the CNMI and U.S. government panels. The report would be sent to President Barack Obama, whose term would end in January.

"We've been informed that it is also going to be circulated to members of the CNMI panel for a final round of review before it goes out. We're now waiting for that transmission," said Demapan, the House Federal and Foreign Relations Committee chair.

Section 902 of the Covenant gives the CNMI a chance to meet with the federal government on issues and other topics that have a direct impact on their relationship. This year's talks were held twice in Washington, D.C., once in Hawaii, and once on Saipan.

"The concern for the Commonwealth is we are submitting the report at the end of a lame-duck administration and just how much implementation can be done between December and the incoming administration on Jan. 20," said Demapan, who is a member of the CNMI panel in the Section 902 talks.

"We really don't know at this point just how much we going to get out of this. But we took the opportunity to go through the process in an effort to amplify the concerns and issues that's besetting the Commonwealth," he said.

Demapan and other CNMI leaders are hopeful President-elect Donald Trump's incoming administration would address the concerns discussed in the 902 talks. "We hope after the transition at the White House, President-elect Trump's administration would continue to view the concerns of the CNMI very seriously."

He said they are optimistic that the CNMI's issues would be addressed, with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres being one of those who supported Trump's presidential campaign. "We are hopeful because Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres took an active role in the Trump campaign."

"At this point, [Torres] is meeting with other Republican governors as they submit their concerns to the transition team. So we're hopeful the Republican relationship and the GOP majority in the U.S. Congress would benefit the Commonwealth."

First step

Demapan said the Record of Decision signed by the U.S. military is the first step in the process for the Tinian divert airfield. "It is a very positive sign and this is the first step as we go along this process. The militarization in the CNMI was a big issue and I think it has been only in recent time that it has drawn mass participation from the community to speak up on their concerns."

He said it was rewarding to learn that the military has taken into account all the comments made and submitted by the CNMI leadership and its residents. "We're hoping that they [military] would address the other proposals on the table in the same manner and take into account the concerns that we continuously raised."

"We haven't had the chance to be given the [ROD] but based on what was announced, I think it was a very good decision. It was really the position the CNMI took and consistently took to ensure the divert airfield would be on Tinian and not on its preferred alternative on Saipan."

The military's planned divert activities is accepted by the Tinian leadership as it promises to bring development to the island's sluggish economy, which worsened after Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino closed down early this year.

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Once Upon A Christmas Eve Dinner
Saturday, 24 December 2016 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

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US$27.50 per child (ages 6-12)

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DJ's Corner – Gingerbread House
Stop by DJ's Corner and explore our very own gingerbread house baked and designed by our talented pastry team from Monday, 12 December to the day after Christmas.

Reservations are highly recommended,
please call +1 234 1234 ext. 26 for more information.

ONCE UPON A
Christmas

Once Upon A Christmas Day
Sunday, 25 December 2016

FAMILY TRADITIONS, ANYWHERE, ALL TOGETHER IS A GREAT PLACE TO BE.

Inspired by the magic of the festive season, *Giovanni's* as well as *Kili Cafe & Terrace* present 'Once Upon a Christmas' a festive holiday brunch from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

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US$45 Club at the Hyatt® Member
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In *Teppenyaki*, enjoy culinary delicacies with experience.

Price: US$120 per person
US$100 Club at the Hyatt® Member
US$40 per child (ages 6-12)
**Two seating arrangements, at 5:30 PM and 8:30 PM*

A magical holiday season, it will be. *Kili Cafe & Terrace* hosts a 'Once Upon a Christmas' sumptuous dinner buffet from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Price: US$55 per person
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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BID
CUC-ITB-17-015

SALE AND REMOVAL OF SCRAP MATERIALS FROM THE WAREHOUSE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Scrap materials located in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained at no charge upon registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-17-015, CUC Sale & Removal of Scrap Materials from the Warehouse"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the scrap materials. CUC shall transfer and assign the scrap materials to the prospective bidder in an "As is, Where is" condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the scrap materials.

The scrap materials may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Warehouse Division at telephone no. 322-6585.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 9, 2017, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Taiwan bikers blog on Hell of the Marianas

Among several international media welcomed, the Marianas Visitors Authority organized a Taiwan media familiarization tour of Saipan on Dec. 1-5, 2016, to promote the 10th Annual Hell of the Marianas cycling race and interview with MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

The group was escorted by MVA's Taiwan PR executive Lisa Wang and MVA marketing specialist Laura Hsiao, who arranged the itinerary and sponsorship of the familiarization tour. The group stayed at Grandvrio Resort.

Two Taiwanese female bikers, Yin-Han "Summer" Su and Wen-Chun "Celine" Hsu, joined the individual 100-kilometer course, completing the race at 6:16:52 and 6:17:01, respectively. The two bikers are also among popular sports tourism bloggers in Taiwan, with over 30,000 fans on Facebook.

"I am so happy to finish, and I pushed myself hard to accomplish the toughest race in Micronesia," said Su after crossing the finish line.

"Although it was the toughest route, the scenery along the race route was very enjoyable," added Hsu.

Taiwan's EBC TV News featured the two popular Taiwanese bikers participating in Hell of the Marianas and interviewed Concepcion about the facts and distinguishing features of the race on Dec 3, 2016. The show will be aired to an estimated 230,000 viewers in Taiwan.

"We welcome more Taiwanese to join the race that can be enjoyed by pro bikers and sports lovers, in general," said Concepcion. "The fresh air and beautiful scenery along Beach Road, as well as year-round mild weather, make the Northern Marianas a wonderful place to visit at any time. During sports events the MVA organizes like the Hell of the Marianas, participants have the added benefit of exercising together and meeting locals and other international participants as they experience an unforgettable vacation."

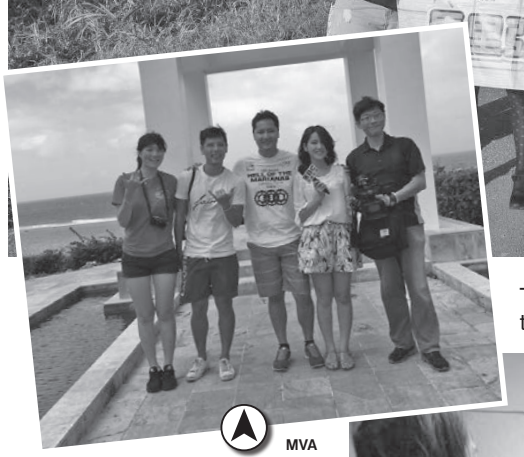
The program will also feature an introduction of the cycling route, a tour of scenic and historic sites in Marpi such as Banzai Cliff, Bird Island, Last Command Post, and Grotto; Managaha Island; Christmas in the Marianas; Garapan Street Market; and indigenous craftsmanship. The familiarization tour was also supported by Revolving Restaurant 360, Salty's Grill & Cafe, Tony Roma's, Bubba Gump, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Dinner Show. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Taiwanese bikers Yin-Han "Summer" Su, left, and Wen-Chun "Celine" Hsu compete in the Hell of the Marianas cycling race on Dec. 3, 2016, on Saipan.

MVA

Taiwan media representatives inspect the Hell of the Marianas route on Dec. 2, 2016, on Saipan.



MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion is interviewed by Taiwan's EBC TV News at the Hell of the Marianas awards ceremony at Marianas Resort & Spa on Saipan on Dec. 3, 2016.

MVA

A local craftsperson teaches assembling and decorating bojobo dolls to Taiwan media EBC TV News and *Travel Rich* magazine on Dec. 4, 2016, on Saipan.

HANMI occupancy up 2 pct.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 90.13 percent occupancy among 11 member hotels for November 2016, a 2-percent Increase compared to November 2015.

A total of 62,688 of 69,541 available room nights sold in November 2016, compared to 60,830 of 69,090 available room nights sold over the same period last year. Average room rates were $124.69 during the month, compared to $122.25 last November.

"As expected, we see that the two-month trend has almost corrected itself," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "As of this time last year after Typhoon Soudelor, most emergency personnel had left the island and utilities had been restored. We are now seeing a correct reflection of an increased tourism market."

So far this calendar year, the average occupancy rate is 87.02 percent, while the average room rate is $139.39.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects.

Membership in HANMI is open to all qualified hotels, motels, guest houses and other lodging entities for tourists, as well as affiliated businesses. Application for 2017 membership are now being accepted. For more information or to request a membership application, visit www.saipanhotels.org. ***(HANMI)***

Saipan sobriety checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on Saipan on Dec. 24.

The first checkpoint is from 8pm to 10pm, along Beach Road Chalan Lau Lau to Beach Road Chalan Piao.

The second checkpoint is from 11pm to 1am along Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau;

Each checkpoint will last 75 minutes or 1 hour and 15 minutes. Checkpoints will be terminated when it rains.

Traffic and patrol officers will be actively conducting speed enforcement, aggressive driving interdiction program and will be conducting highway criminal interdiction. ***(DPS)***

Tinian DUI sobriety checkpoints

The Tinian Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints on the dates and time listed below:

■ Thursday, Dec. 22, 2016, 8pm to 9:15pm: North and southbound lane on Broadway Road between Tinian Hardware and Natibu Park.

■ Thursday, Dec. 22, 2016, 6pm to 7:15pm: West and eastbound lane on Suzuran Street between Natibu Park and Senior Citizen Center in San Jose Village.

■ Friday, Dec. 23, 2016, 6:30pm to 7:45pm: West and eastbound lane on Grand Street between JJ Mart and Department of Commerce.

■ Friday, Dec. 23, 2016, 8pm to 9:15pm: West and eastbound lane on Canal Street between Queen's and Tinian Hardware.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes). Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain. This activity is part of the department's effort to deter, detect and apprehend impaired drivers and to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(DPS)***

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Island Snapshots

IPI WELLNESS GIFT-GIVING FUNDRAISER
Fun run participants make their way to the finish line.
IPI/BSI-CSR PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International executive director Geri Dela Cruz poses with winner of the "School Spirit Competition," Kagman Elementary School led by its principal Dr. Ignacia Demapan.
IPI/BSI-CSR PHOTO

San Vicente Elementary School show off their school spirit. They were led by principal Paulette Sablan, third left back row.
IPI/BSI-CSR PHOTO

Winners of the "Most Lit Outfit of the Night" competition. From left to right, first place winner Hamor Manahan, second place winner Gia Kamille Manahan, and third place winner Laura Brown.
IPI/BSI-CSR PHOTO

As part of the fundraising initiative, glow accessories were available to the participants for a minimal fee.
IPI/BSI-CSR PHOTO

School children register for the fun run.
IPI/BSI-CSR PHOTO

Donations to be given to the Ayuda Network for distribution to underprivileged families.
IPI/BSI-CSR PHOTO

UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 2nd Quarter General Membership Meeting on December 29, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Pacific Islands Club - Napu Room.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of December 29, 2016
IV. Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2016

V. Action Items
  a. Ratify/Approve CDD's FY 2016 Annual Report
  b. Ratify/Approve DD Basic Grant FY 2017 Budget – Partial Award
  c. Ratify/Approve AT Act Program Grant FY 2017 Budget – Partial Award

VI. Reports
  a. Chairperson
  b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
  c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  d. Executive Director

VII. OLD Business
  a. New Membership Orientation
  b. February – Transition Conference
  c. Emergency Preparedness Focus Group

VIII. New Business
  a. Office of the Public Auditor's Code of Ethics Presentation
  b. VOICES of the CNMI – Tinian Chapter Update

XI. Miscellaneous
XII. Next Meeting - January 2017
XIII. Adjournment

Note: *Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.*

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Efren Nicholas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

MVA seeking Marianas-*chan* to represent NMI

The Marianas Visitors Authority is looking for a pint-sized ambassador to help promote the Northern Mariana Islands to potential visitors in Japan.

"Marianas-*chan*" (Marianas child) will be featured in various MVA marketing and promotional activities in 2017.

"As part of our many marketing activities to revive the Japan market, we want to put a new and endearing face forward for the Northern Marianas, something similar to our celebrity tourism ambassadors, but more personal to the destination," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We welcome applicants ages 4-6 who are friendly, curious, and with an amiable personality who laughs and smiles easily. This is the image of the Northern Marianas that we want to entice visitors with, especially families with children."

The selected Marianas-*chan* will visit Japan to promote tourism and make television appearances, and his or her image will be issued in promotional material and merchandising.

Applications are available at www.mymarianas.com and at the MVA offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The deadline to apply is Dec. 30, 2016. Live audition will be held on Jan. 7, 2016, on Saipan, where contestants will also have the opportunity to demonstrate any special talent or skill.

Applicants must reside in the Northern Mariana Islands and be a U.S. citizen. Travel to Japan with a parent or guardian will be required, so a U.S. passport will also be required. Additional criteria are specified on the application.

"Marianas-*chan* will have the opportunity to join a special Marianas seminar and media reception in Tokyo in February, attend the JATA Tourism Expo in September, meet media groups when they visit the Northern Marianas, and participate in other promotional events," said Concepcion. "We will be looking for that special boy or girl who has an infectious cuteness and charm, or as described in Chamorro or Carolinian, *na* '*magodai*.'"

Interested contestants from Tinian and Rota are invited to submit an application with a 1-2 minute video of the contestant to info@mymarianas.com for call back to the Jan. 7 audition on Saipan.

"We want children from Tinian or Rota to also be a part of the competition, so we welcome their video entries," said Concepcion. "Interested applicants from those islands can send us a 1-2 minute video of the contestant, and our judging committee will advise if any of them are recommended to attend the Jan. 7 audition, which is mandatory for all final contestants."

For further details, download a Marianas-*chan* application at www.mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

United flies kids to North Pole

GUAM—It's the most wonderful time of the year and United Airlines continued its annual Fantasy Flight tradition, and gifted smiles and memories to children with disabilities.

The direct service flew children—from Parents Empowering Parents of Children with Disabilities, Inc. and Guam Department of Education, Division of Special Education—from the Guam hub to the North Pole on Dec. 15, 2016.

After checking in, the children, along with their families/guardians, boarded the Boeing 737-800 aircraft and excitedly waited for their departure. At 5:15pm, flight UA 2126 pushed back from its gate and began the direct service to the North Pole. In preparation for takeoff, the United flight crew spread festive cheer by handing out customized Christmas stockings that included the United Ben Flyin' bear to each child. Once the children arrived at the North Pole, they were merrily greeted by United employees and volunteers dressed in Christmas costumes along with the University of Guam Chorale.

"This year marks the third annual fantasy flight to the North Pole, and United is humbled to bring Christmas love and joy to the children from PEP and SPED. This event is one of my favorite events of the year because it brings the United Guam family together for a special cause. I'd like to thank all of our United employees who volunteered their time and resources to provide these children with an extra special night full of holiday festivities," said Sam Shinohara, managing director. "The memories made tonight are priceless and you can see it on their faces."

Over 90 attendees were treated to a number of Christmas workshops and activity stations that included Home Depot ornament making, cookie decorating, balloon art and face painting. A special meet-and-greet complete with photo opportunities with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus proved to be one of the favorite activities. A photo booth was provide. At the end of the evening, the children and their families re-boarded the plane and flew back to Guam where there was one last surprise waiting for them at the baggage claim carousel—presents containing items they wished for on their list to Santa Claus.

For 26 years, United Airlines has hosted fantasy flights at major hubs around the globe. The Guam hub, celebrating its third year, is one of 11 hubs to offer the exclusive fantasy flight in 2016. Fantasy flight is completely volunteer-driven. Locally, 120 employees and volunteers worked to organize the event, raise money for gifts, solicit donations and design a holiday experience for the children.

The "North Pole" featured holiday treats and activities that were made possible by the sponsors. Each fantasy flight passenger received Christmas gifts made possible through toy drive donations by United co-workers and sponsors. The children picked up their special presents from Santa at the baggage carousel upon their arrival to Guam.

"Our employee work group organized this event, but we couldn't spread the Christmas cheer without the help of our sponsors. On behalf of United, I would like to thank the all the sponsors who bigheartedly partnered with us to bring Santa and the North Pole to our island in the Pacific," said Shinohara. ***(United)***

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TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANA FISHING, INC., Plaintiff, -v- AMROSIO T. OGUMORO Defendant — CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0068

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on March 9, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: the motor vessel Blue Marlin 1, together with the tackle and equipment listed on the Inventory attached hereto.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 6, 2017, at the hour of 1:30p.m. at the Rota Seaport, Rota , Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of property. The property to be sold is currently located at the Rota Seaport. It may be viewed and inspected at any time prior to the sale, by prior arrangement with Francisco M. Atalig, telephone no. 670-532-0350 or 671-797-0349. Failure to inspect the property to be sold or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 7th day of December, 2016:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctionner

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

By DAVID SIMONSON
Tribune News Service

Oregon death row inmate David Simonson is affiliated with Prison Lives, a nonprofit group that works with prison inmates and their families. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project.

Christmas behind bars

In prison, wearing anything in Santa red will land you in solitary confinement. It's a gang color—and a serious violation of prison rules.

Any giving or receiving of gifts among inmates risks disciplinary action. Anything in a cell not sanctioned by the prison is considered contraband.

And don't even think of yelling "Ho, Ho, Ho!"

Despite such restrictions, people in prison, myself included, are immersed in the holiday season. The newspapers we read are thick with gifts to buy. The television we get to see is punctuated by commercials showing just how happy buying and receiving can be. Holiday music invades the radio.

And then there are the fake Christmas trees. Some appear on the desks of staff. A big fake one adorns the central area of our prison, complete with symbolically empty wrapped gifts. It's unclear whether this is an attempt to bring in some holiday spirit, or remind of us of how much we're missing because we screwed up.

What makes the season most difficult is that most of us haven't forgotten the meaning of Christmas, despite the loss of our freedom. In fact, for many, its significance is more glaring than ever. We try not to show it, but you can see it on our faces.

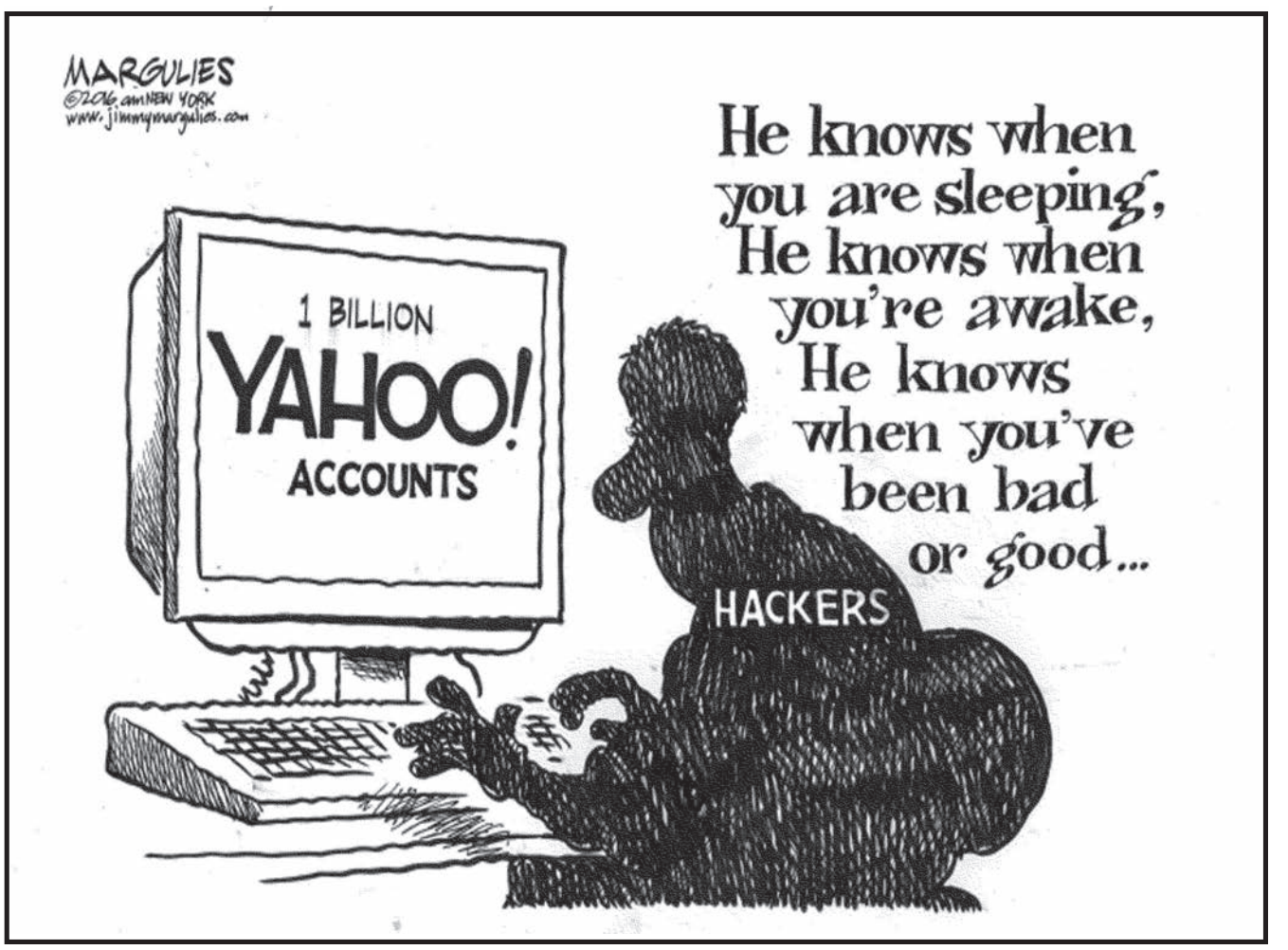
During mail call, you can see how inmates look hopefully at the colorful greeting-card-sized envelopes in the pile, hoping one is meant for them. You can see, too, the crushed looks when this doesn't happen.

This is the time of year when we miss family the most, even though we'll never say it to one another. If absence in the free world makes the heart grow fonder, absence of family through imprisonment, especially at this time of year, tenderizes the heart to putty. It threatens to consume. And that's just the self-pity side of the equation. Worse still is thinking about what our incarceration is doing to those we've left behind.

It's not all bad. We may get to make one free phone call to our family. A local church choir may brave our place long enough to joyfully sing carols. Many of us will even watch "A Christmas Carol" or "Home Alone" as a way to stay connected with our past.

We won't wear red or green, but we'll find ways to celebrate in our own way, if for no other reason than to not quite feel so alone and segregated from the rest of the world.

The holiday spirit behind bars is alive. And, for some of us, perhaps it's good to have our holiday cheer mixed with a healthy dose of why we are here, away from our loved ones. This is the season of a remembrance. For many of us, it's just the thing we need to spark our path to rehabilitation, and to a future where we can show those we care about that we truly understand the meaning of Christmas.



Brain waste and immigrants

By MARY SANCHEZ
The Kansas City Star

Mary Sanchez is an opinion-page columnist for The Kansas City Star. *Readers may write to her at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or via email at msanchez@kcstar.com.*

"A mind is a terrible thing to waste." You might remember that slogan from decades ago.

Well, the intellectual and creative gifts of many in America are being squandered, especially those of immigrants. A new report shows that, increasingly, new arrivals to our country are more and more educated—college-educated—but are not employed in jobs that use their full potential.

Nearly half, 48 percent of the adult foreigners who resettled in the U.S. between 2011 and 2015 had earned at least a bachelor's degree and many have advanced degrees. This steady influx of brain power is a shift that has been occurring largely unnoticed for decades. Before 1990, only 27 percent of adult immigrants came with a college education. That rose to about 33 percent before the 2008 recession hit, and it has continued to rise.

Yet a study coordinated by the Migration Policy Institute found that one in four one college-educated immigrants are either performing low-skilled jobs or are unemployed. And it's costing the nation. Every year, the government loses $10.2 billion in tax revenue due to the underutilization, according to the findings.

In addition, these migrant families lose out on nearly $40 billion in annual earnings. When you consider how those unseen wages could have been fed back into the economy, it can't be disregarded as chump change. And that's considered a conservative estimate.

It does no good for anyone to have a foreign-trained engineer shoveling French fries, pushing a mop or clipping hedges.

The top reason why they aren't fully using their talents is the most obvious one: a lack of fluency in English language. Many can function well enough at lower service economy jobs, but they often lack the verbal capacity to work in the business or professional fields they trained for.

Sometimes they're held back because their licensing isn't applicable in the U.S. This explains the foreign-trained medical doctor who drives a taxi.

Fixes might include better bridge programs between foreign and U.S.-based licensing, helping with business or medical language fluency and reworking how we structure visas so that these workers fill gaps in the labor force without displacing the U.S.-born. And cultural differences that act as barriers could be addressed, such as by telling a foreign-trained engineer that, in America, personal bragging on a resume is expected.

But not all of the problems are this straightforward. Mindsets need to shift, too. Immigrants also face racial and ethnic bias, including notions of what kind of immigrant is "deserving."

Researchers found that, overall, college-educated Hispanic immigrants suffered a great deal of what we might call "brain waste"—work beneath their educational attainment. South Asian and East Asian immigrants fared better. Some of that might be attributable to the widespread perception that the latter are "model" minorities.

When the researchers controlled for legal immigration status, language fluency and other factors, black immigrants still fared poorest. That says everything about the rest of us, not them.

A little perspective: The foreign-born are 7.6 million of the 45.6 million college graduates in the labor force.

You might wonder why we should concern ourselves with immigrants when there are so many college-educated U.S.-born citizens who can't get a job in their field. The study looked at their struggles as well. They number nearly 7 million. And the authors argued that helping both groups is called for, as about the same proportions of each (22 percent and 24 percent) are out of work and not even looking for a job.

While low-skilled, undocumented immigrants are the targets of a lot of the abuse generated in our increasingly nativist political climate, educated immigrants who are legally present catch a lot of flak, too. Many Americans can't or won't make the distinction.

The vast majority of college-educated immigrants, 57 percent, are U.S. citizens. Only about 11 percent (840,000) are undocumented and the rest are either legal permanent residents or hold at least a temporary visa.

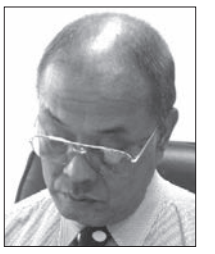
Their prosperity and our nation's prosperity are linked. That's why we need to reset the national mentality regarding immigration. It's why Silicon Valley executives and employees have been so offended by the anti-immigrant emotions drawn out during the presidential election. They know the value of skilled foreign workers—their value to business enterprises and the nation's economy.

It's a sad indication of the wrong direction this country has taken that *The New York Times* has started a column called "This Week in Hate" to catalogue incidents that offend the values we Americans claim to hold dear.

Hate divides us and weakens our democracy. It also costs us, and that—if nothing else—ought to bring us to our senses.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Investment Goliath



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

A week ago, the Japanese Diet approved the establishment of the casino industry in the country. The gaming industry would be part of the planned integrated resort to lure non-gamblers to avail of other services in casinos.

Already, international gaming companies like Wynn Resorts and Las Vegas Sands look forward to investing in the newly approved industry. The venues are likely the Yokohama and Osaka areas. Initial projection is around $10 billion in new revenues annually or $30 billion when the gaming industry is spread throughout Japan.

Am I worried about tidings of Japan turning into Asia's gaming hub? Yes! Known as the Land of the Rising, it has turned the destination of its visitors to the Aloha State, thus the fateful sunset for the NMI. When it opens its opulent gaming business, it probably means the final chapter in our seeing tourists from Japan. No worries! We did it to ourselves!

The binge for casino in the region turns this industry into a highly competitive business. Now, if we've failed marketing the islands how else do we gain against fully poised international competitors nearby? Isn't it a déjà vu of the apparel industry?

Perhaps the newfound toy of "poker syndrome" ought to be replaced with "reality check." By then investments would have sailed way south!

Patience is a virtue!

As school kids walk home laughing and yelling in youthful joy a serious query popped up in mind: what's in their future? Would there be sufficient economic opportunities ahead so they could settle down at home? Or would they too join others "evacuate" elsewhere to find real opportunities?

I wish I could place my finger on the blurred radar screen before me. Is their future in the minds of jokers on the hill who specialize in what's known as poker syndrome? The syndrome is a political virus where one takes chances on anything, come hell or high water. There's no due diligence. The lack of blueprint from this administration is a tale of their "que sera" commitment for our children.

In quiet moments I'd think through this and other issues of substance in hopes that even by chance someone would have the gall to say, "Excuse me, wrong direction, let's go this way." I've only heard it in the figment of my imagination.

Meanwhile, I've heard one too many discordant voices on the hardship villagers had to endure. This sentiment would morph into an explosion so difficult to domesticate when it goes off! Did someone say, "Not yet, already?"

Dangling sentiment aplenty

There are tidings of an improving economy and we all are hopeful it would improve disposable income of families all over. But my guarded hope was dashed when my friend, a young student at Umañg Elementary School, said, "I can't buy a pair of shoes for Christmas because *da* `conomy *nai*." The sentiment came from a student suffering real hardship. Improvement?

■■■

I thought things were fine until rumors abound that firemen are now being trained to climb or scale high-rise buildings with fire hose in tow. Said a trainee, "*Natting* fire truck to put out fire on tall buildings." Isn't tourism the primary industry here? I wonder if there's a plan to light up the Christmas season with the first high-rise fire. *Halo*?

■■■

The CEO at the hospital was all smiles when Satans from the hill came down in triplets (modern Three Kings) donating some suspect gifts to CHC.

"Satan was just here!" whispered a patient to the attending nurse.

"Satan or Santa?" asked the curious nurse.

"*Ai, si* Satan, *nai*!"

"They gifted themselves with very high salaries, ignoring our needs!"

Not a good time to be around the hospital when suspect three kings deliver used PJs for in-patients. Why like *dat, lai*?

The authority to appropriate public funds rests with the lLegislature. It begins in the lower chamber. The process involves critical review how public funds are spent including planned expenditure. With this in mind, it's quizzical why would the Legislature surrender such authority approving that agencies borrow money on their own accord?

Hell, even with the use of *komun* sense this action would seem to be unconstitutional! But hold your horse, sir! Consult with Biktot Hokog and Larissa Larson expropriating public funds via a delegation's resolution! Is it legal?

■■■

The celebratory handclap cheering economic improvement fades embarrassingly quickly if one reads Moodys' assessment of the NMI. Not very good rookin`! Read it anyway for personal awareness that it isn't all honey! No good rookin`, braddah! Remember the story of "No good rookin`?" It's about a farmer that sold his blind bull to his neighbor? The new owner found out that his bull walks into coconut trees and other plants all over. No can see, "No good rookin`".

■■■

For all our follies and inconsistencies I still love these isles. I know of no place in the world where "everyday" is Christmas Day! The secretary of Finance gave away $400,000 to Biktot Hokog's family business. Christmas came early, *di ba*? Why the deafening silence among officials on the violation of laws in the MV *Luta* case? Must be loaded with *komun* sense, no?

■■■

Bloomberg's report of billions being made here is indeed "staggering.. But it also piqued my interest if the administration and the Legislature aren't sleeping on the same pillow to ignore underreporting of actual income. Isn't this an impeachable offense by those directly involved in the scheme? Did you know that such is impeachable or "Not yet, already?"

Tillerson is disciplined—and he won't be baited by a tweet

By MITCHELL SCHNURMAN
The Dallas Morning News

Mitchell Schnurman is a business columnist for the Dallas Morning News. *Readers may email him at mschnurman@dallasnews.com.*

What's tougher than running Exxon Mobil Corp.?

Not much, at least not much in corporate America. So if President-elect Donald Trump is turning to the business world to help staff his Cabinet and lead the nation, he's fortunate to land Rex Tillerson, chairman and CEO of the oil giant

Every public official, from dog catcher to the president, is expected to meet general ethical principles. Those include loyalty to the public, transparency and duty of care—another way of saying competency.

In other words, can he get the job done?

That question doesn't get enough attention, given the concerns over Tillerson's ties to Russia and the wealth he's accumulated in Exxon stock. But his competency gene may be especially valuable in a Trump administration, because Tillerson won't be baited by a tweet.

Disciplined and deliberate, he has cut deals with foreign leaders around the world, often in dangerous places. He's kept Exxon at the top in performance despite volatile swings in energy prices. He's even nudged Exxon forward on climate change and pushed the Boy Scouts to accept gays.

"He has an understated toughness and a real understanding of how the world works," said Bruce Bullock, director of the Maguire Energy Institute at Southern Methodist University. "He could be a transformational pick for secretary of state."

Daniel Yergin, an energy historian, praised Tillerson, too: "He's a man with a tremendous capacity to absorb information and make decisions," Yergin told The New York Times. "He's very measured and disciplined and takes a long view."

Tillerson joined Exxon in 1975 after graduating from the University of Texas at Austin, so he doesn't have experience in government. That's rare for this Cabinet post. But rising to the top of Exxon, and remaining there for a decade, is a major personal achievement.

Exxon is famous for its methodical, demanding approach to business and management. Every year, executives are evaluated in seven key areas, including safety, strategic results and total shareholder return. Outstanding performance in one area will not cancel out a poor showing elsewhere, according to the proxy statement.

"All 21 executive officers are expected to perform at the highest level or they are replaced," the proxy said.

If another exec can make a stronger contribution, a succession plan is implemented and the incumbent is reassigned or pushed out, according to the filing.

Tillerson's pay is benchmarked against executives at AT&T, Boeing, General Electric and other industrial giants. During his tenure, his "realized" pay ranked 10th among 13 companies. Include the value of unvested stock and delayed bonuses, and his pay ranked eighth, the proxy said.

Tillerson became CEO in 2006, and in the next 10 years, Exxon outperformed its peers in the major metrics tracked by the board, the proxy shows. Exxon also has started 22 major projects since then and plans to bring on 10 more in 2017.

Exxon's market value today is $27 billion higher than when Tillerson became CEO, even though the price of crude oil is $10 lower.

Steve Coll, who wrote the 2012 book "Private Empire: Exxon Mobil and American Power," has reservations about Tillerson. They start with whether he can put national interests ahead of private ones.

Exxon executives have disdain for the state department, in part because Exxon's foreign policy sometimes had more impact on countries, Coll wrote in The New Yorker. He questioned whether Tillerson can "suddenly develop respect and affection for the American diplomatic service."

But Coll also acknowledged the CEO's personal integrity, as well as other skills. Tillerson can absorb complex political analysis, evaluate foreign leaders and negotiate with friends and adversaries. In addition, Coll noted Exxon's strong safety record and the fact that it avoided problems with prosecutions while operating in countries rife with corruption.

Exxon goes to some lengths to promote strong ethics. It has "clawback" provisions to recoup executive pay in the event of a financial restatement. It has no employment contracts or severance agreements, so execs who fall short don't get a safety net. Exxon also has delayed bonuses and unvested stock awards that can be forfeited if an executive does something detrimental, even after retiring.

In the 1990s, according to oilman Ray Hunt, Tillerson and Hunt refused to pay small bribes to expedite a deal in Yemen, even though the practice was not uncommon at the time.

"He has the courage of his convictions," Hunt said in a 2014 story, "and he will never do anything that creates a short-term gain at the price of a long-term loss."

Many lawmakers, including some Republicans, have concerns about Tillerson's close ties with Russia and Vladimir Putin. That will be a major topic during Tillerson's Senate confirmation hearings next month.

When Tillerson spoke to students at Southern Methodist University, he downplayed the importance of befriending the Russians.

"He said it was a matter of understanding their history and culture," SMU's Bullock recalled. "He said they were once an empire—and are still a very proud country with very proud leaders."

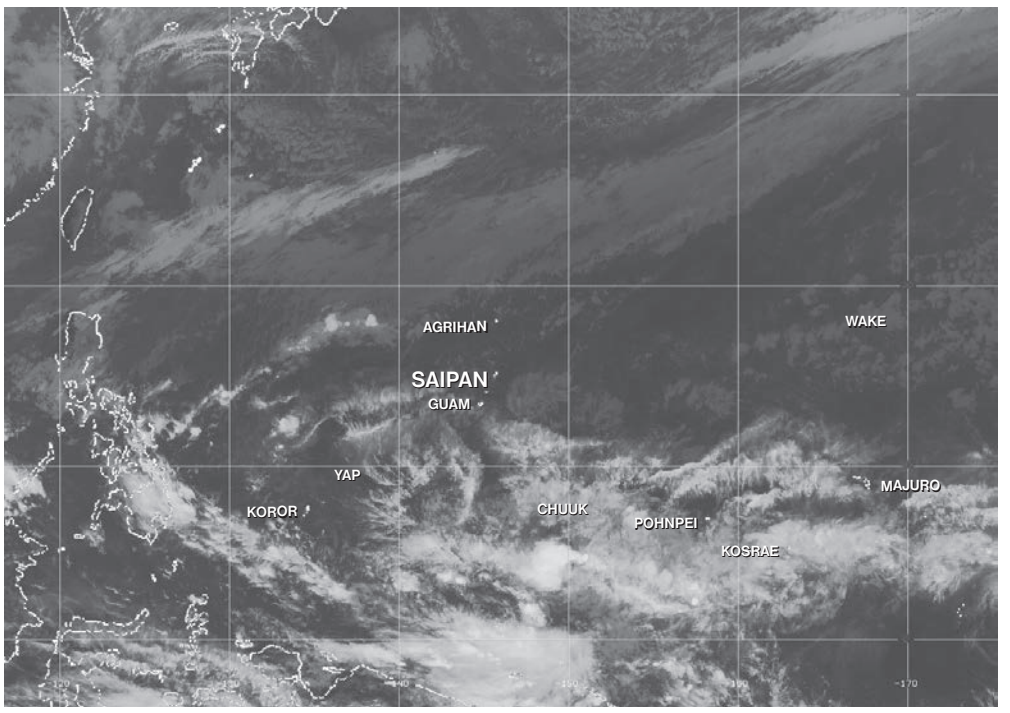
That kind of insight will have a place in Trump's Washington.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy during the day.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy during the day.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy during the day.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:47 AM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows only a few showers within the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile reveals northeast winds of 9 to 13 knots just off the surface which build to between 24 and 34 knots through the lowest 8 thousand feet of the air.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	80 / 88 °F
Palau	Partly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Yap	Afternoon clouds	80 / 86 °F
Chuuk	Partly sunny	81 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly cloudy	78 / 83 °F
Kosrae	Mostly cloudy	81 / 82 °F
Majuro	Partly sunny	79 / 82 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Afternoon clouds	58 / 68 °F
Beijing	Sunny	22 / 49 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	65 / 75 °F
Honolulu	Partly sunny	72 / 83 °F
London	Partly sunny	42 / 48 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	43 / 67 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	78 / 85 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	46 / 81 °F
Miami	Partly sunny	77 / 82 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	25 / 32 °F
Osaka	Morning clouds	39 / 58 °F
Paris	Decreasing cloudiness	39 / 42 °F
Pusan	Afternoon clouds	42 / 54 °F
Rome	Mostly cloudy	32 / 50 °F
Salem	Overcast	31 / 44 °F
San Francisco	Mostly sunny	39 / 54 °F
Seoul	Scattered showers	41 / 49 °F
Tokyo	High level clouds	39 / 56 °F
Washington, DC	Partly sunny	28 / 37 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
5:28 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.14 Feet
12:31 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.95 Feet
6:40 PM	LOW TIDE	0.98 Feet
11:10 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.53 Feet

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Tuesday	6:38 AM	5:51 PM
Wednesday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Thursday	6:39 AM	5:52 PM
Friday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:58 AM	11:03 PM
Tuesday	-	11:41 AM	11:53 PM
Wednesday	-	12:21 PM	-
Thursday	12:42 AM	1:00 PM	-
Friday	1:29 AM	1:38 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	7, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Kia'aina, governors create panel to control invasive species

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina met Friday with representatives of the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for the first meeting of the U.S. Territories Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.

» Territorial invasive species action plans focus of inaugural meeting in DC

The meeting follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Dec. 6, 2016, by the island governors and the assistant secretary, committing to help prevent, eradicate, and control invasive species as well as to protect and restore natural and cultural resources from the effects of invasive species in the U.S. territories.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Colette Monroe, policy adviser, Office of the Governor, U.S. Virgin Islands; Tricee Limtiaco, special assistant to the Governor of Guam; Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina; Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, director, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources; and Richard Seman, CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary.

"Invasive species pose one of the greatest threats in the U.S. territories to natural and cultural resources, as they are a significant driver of environmental degradation and species extinction," said Kia'aina. "We can't afford to let invasive species go unchecked in the territories. They could threaten water and food availability, impair human health, damage already fragile economies, and undermine the security of our Pacific and Caribbean regions."

"The wide expanse of oceans which separate us and previously protected us from invasive species now link us as territories to help address the influx of invasive species and its impacts to our islands," said Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo. "I thank and commend [Kia'aina] and the Office of Insular Affairs for facilitating this union through the creation of the USTISCC and for hosting this inaugural meeting. I also thank and congratulate partner territories for agreeing to work cooperatively and share resources to better confront invasive species challenges. I look forward to the great work we will accomplish together."

Gov. Kenneth E. Mapp of the U.S. Virgin Islands expressed his desire to work cooperatively on the invasive species management through the newly established USTISCC when he stated, "The silent invasion of non-native plants and animals adversely impacts all of our island countries. Collectively, our shared experiences will benefit one another as we strive to protect and restore our precious and unique natural and cultural resources."

"The American Samoa government commends the DOI-Insular Affairs Office for taking this initiative in helping the U.S. Pacific territories deal with the problem of invasive species," said A. Samoa Gov. Lolo Moliga. "American Samoa, like all island nations, is particularly vulnerable to invasive species because it is small, isolated, and has native species that are naive and vulnerable to invasive species. Invasive species are a threat to our ecosystem, economy, food security, and the people of American Samoa. Therefore this initiative by DOI-Insular Affairs is welcome because it will support the territory in developing a legal framework to deal with invasive species, and identify priority actions to prevent future introductions and manage current invasive species through the American Samoa Invasive Species Action Plan."

"The establishment of the USTISCC could not occur at a better time than now for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," said CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "With economic growth that the CNMI is presently experiencing with development and tourism, the potential for the introduction of invasive species on our islands is at an all-time high. I would like to personally commend [Kia'aina] and the [OIA] for forging for the establishment of the USTISCC. It is through these types of direct technical and financial assistance that the CNMI and the rest of the territories greatly benefitted from. Our economic growth brings me greater peace of mind knowing that effective defensive measures are being developed toward the prevention and control of invasive species. *Olomwaay and si yu'us ma'ase* [Kia'aina and OIA] for the great job!"

Island ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to invasive species because they tend to host a large number of endemic or native species that have evolved in the absence of large predator populations. The invasive species that have already been intentionally and unintentionally introduced in the U.S. territories in the Pacific and the Caribbean are causing species extinction and irreparable damage to natural and cultural resources. If unchecked, invasive species can cost billions of dollars in damage, including the indirect cost of lost revenue to the tourism industry in the territories. Proactive measures to prevent, eradicate, and control invasive species are critically needed in these jurisdictions.

Efforts of the USTISCC will include helping to identify or establish programs to institutionalize the initiative; improve biosecurity capacities, including pathway management; develop early detection and rapid response systems as well as joint programs for the eradication and control of species of priority concern; and share best practices, scientific and technical information, personnel, and other resources necessary to facilitate prevention, eradication, and control of invasive species, as well as species recovery and habitat restoration in the U.S. territories.

Other federal and non-governmental partners participating in the meeting were the National Invasive Species Council Secretariat, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. National Park Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Island Conservation.

Establishing the U.S. Territories Invasive Species Coordinating Committee builds on the work of the *U.S. Territories Invasive Species Workshop: Capacity Building through Collaboration,* a conference held in Honolulu, Hawaii in June 2016 that was co-hosted by OIA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The conference sought to strengthen capacity building training and knowledge for territorial officials on how to improve invasive species management in their respective jurisdictions.

Following the workshop, the Office of Insular Affairs provided technical assistance program grants to each of the territories to complete Invasive Species Action Plans by the end of 2016. This inaugural meeting and an update on the Territorial Invasive Species Action Plans are an important culmination of national priorities, including President Obama's Executive Order on Safeguarding the Nation from the Impacts of Invasive Species signed on Dec. 5, 2016.

The creation of the USTISCC and the territorial invasive species management plans advances priority actions under the NISC management plan, which calls for the development and implementation of recommendations to improve federal-territorial coordination on invasive species issues. ***(OIA)***

NMI wins another major award in China

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Project manager Florence Shi of MVA's China office, second from left, receives the Most Potential Destination Award at China's 12th National Tourism Awards on Dec. 12, 2016, in Beijing, China.

The Northern Mariana Islands received the Most Potential Destination Award at China's 12th National Tourism Awards event held on Dec. 12 in Beijing.

The National Tourism Awards is organized by Tourism Media and Best Travel Media and was held this year at CHAO Hotel.

"We're ecstatic to have Saipan, Tinian, and Rota recognized with another national award in China," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The National Tourism Awards is an authoritative award event in the Chinese tourism industry. Every year, they identify enterprises and groups, including official tourism authorities, travel agencies and airlines with outstanding performances. This academic award reflects a powerful endorsement by the Chinese public and will increase confidence among our partners in continuing to promote the Northern Marianas."

The award was accepted by project manager Florence Shi of MVA's China office. Also named for this year were Colorado, Minnesota, Poland, and Monterey City, CA.

The MVA operates marketing offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong. Last fiscal year, over 200,000 visitors traveled from China to the Northern Marianas, representing 41 percent of total visitor arrivals and making China the largest source market for the destination. ***(MVA)***

Christmas in the Marianas Winners

PHOTOS By ERWIN ENCINARES

Northern Marianas International School was the second place winner in the 15th Christmas tree decoration contest. They are shown here receiving their check for $3,000 that was presented by Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion.

The Saipan Awa-odori Team and the Saipan mascot known as the Saipanda wave to the crowd during the Parade of Floats on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016.

Child models from Green Meadow School showcase their dresses made from recycled materials.

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School was the third place winner in the 15th annual Christmas tree decoration contest. They are shown here receiving their check for $2,000 presented by Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion.

Parade-goers from Kagman High School walk alongside their principal, Leile Staffler, as she waves to the crowd.

Meadow School staff and principal Milagros Songcuan pose with other Green Meadow School students and staff in front of their winning Christmas tree on Paseo de Marianas.

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School representatives receive a check worth $1,000 from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion as first place winners in the Christmas parade float contest.

Oleai Elementary School representatives receive a check worth $1,000 from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion as first place winners in the Christmas caroling contest elementary division.

Northern Marianas International School receives a check worth $1,000 from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion as first place winners in the Christmas caroling contest middle school division.

Northern Marianas International School receives a check worth $1,000 from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion as first place winners in the Christmas caroling contest middle school division.

Business

Trump's pick for budget director has urged big spending cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican Rep. Mick Mulvaney, President-elect Donald Trump's choice as his budget director, is a fierce deficit hawk with a record of pushing deep spending cuts across the federal government to balance the budget.

Mulvaney

The 49-year-old from South Carolina, just re-elected to a fourth term, is a co-founder of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus that pushed former Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, from power. As director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, Mulvaney would be responsible for Trump's budget submissions to Congress. Those budgets are likely to address Trump's campaign promises to repeal the Affordable Care Act, cut taxes broadly and boost spending on public works and other projects.

If confirmed by the Senate, Mulvaney would lead an office that coordinates federal regulations, putting him in charge of repeals of Obama administration rules. Trump has been critical of several of President Barack Obama's executive orders, from those involving climate change and reining in Wall Street to protecting the children of immigrants who are in the United States illegally.

Strongly anti-establishment, Mulvaney has supported cuts beyond what House Republican leaders preferred and has refused to back deals to raise the government's borrowing limit, more recently causing heartburn for current Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

The nomination probably will soothe fiscal conservatives but could put Mulvaney at odds with Trump, who has pledged additional spending for transportation, military and veterans' health care without offering little details on how to pay for it. Trump has previously suggested that the government should take on new debt for many of the spending projects because interest rates are so low.

In a statement, Trump commended Mulvaney's strong voice in Congress who will get America's fiscal house in order.

"Right now we are nearly $20 trillion in debt, but Mick is a very high-energy leader with deep convictions for how to responsibly manage our nation's finances and save our country from drowning in red ink," Trump said.

Mulvaney said he looked forward to working with Congress to create policies that will be "friendly to American workers and businesses."

"The Trump administration will restore budgetary and fiscal sanity back in Washington after eight years of an out-of-control, tax and spend financial agenda," he said.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California called Mulvaney a "radical" who consistently voted to cut Medicare benefits. She noted that he was supporter of a government shutdown in 2013 and 2015 over spending that Republicans opposed for the health care law and Planned Parenthood.

"We cannot have an OMB director who sees inflicting pain on working families as leverage for his radical agenda," Pelosi said.

Mulvaney was elected in the 2010 tea party wave. He defeated Democratic Rep. John Spratt, who had been chairman of the House Budget Committee, by branding him as a big-spending liberal.

Stores push deals, hope to lure shoppers for holiday stretch

NEW YORK (AP)—Stores are pushing deals and incentives like free shipping for the final week of the holiday shopping season, as new numbers show people are so far spending at a bit of a slower pace than last year.

Retailers pared down their inventories and offered more exclusive merchandise this season in a bid to avoid having to offer big discounts that shoppers have come to expect. But customers seem willing to wait, and so stores are once again counting on last-minute buyers for the final stretch, particularly Saturday, which could be the busiest day of the year.

"This has really become a game of chicken. In that game of chicken, retailers once again were the ones who flinched," said Joseph Schmitt, director at the retail consulting firm AlixPartners.

Retail spending is up 2 percent, slightly slower the 2.4 percent gain at this time last year, with the rate of online spending far outpacing buying at physical stores from Oct. 29 through Monday, according to First Data. The firm analyzed online and in-store payments from nearly a million merchants. The data captures about 40 percent of all card transactions in the U.S. but excludes cash.

Online sales growth was up 9 percent, while spending at physical stores was up a mere 0.1 percent. At the mid-season point, e-commerce made up about 22 percent of retail spending, up from 16 percent in 2015. Overall, the average dollar amount spent per person for the 45-day period was $70.28, up slightly from last year's $69.34.

"It's pretty decent growth, but the average shopper is moving online," says Rishi Chhabra, vice president for information and analytics at First Data.

Gregg Omoto, an information technology worker from Seattle, says he's been shopping more online.

"It's easier," he said. "You can tap into people's wish lists, so there's not a lot of guesswork involved."

Four of the seven categories First Data tracks showed sales growth this season: building materials, electronics and appliances, furniture and home furnishings and health and personal care. General merchandise stores suffered the biggest sales drop—2.8 percent—because of deep discounts as well as less foot traffic. Within that category, department stores took the biggest hit, with overall sales down 8.8 percent.

While the Thanksgiving weekend has usually kicked off the holiday season, stores have been starting their sales earlier and earlier. They also started the season with less inventory on hand than in years past.

Many hoped that shoppers would have more to spend with the economy improving and lower gas and food prices, and the uncertainty over the presidential election behind them. But many shoppers retain the habits they developed during the Great Recession, focusing on deals and more readily using technology to find them.

Stores needed to be more aggressive with discounts, particularly last weekend, said C. Britt Beemer, chairman of the consumer-focused America's Research Group.

"Consumers are saying, 'where is the deal?'" he said. "Retailers hurt themselves last weekend by not having more deals."

Nation

Trump says Michelle Obama's 'no hope' comment about past

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump said first lady Michelle Obama "must have been talking about the past" when she said there's no sense of hope after his election.

AP
President-elect Donald Trump speaks during a rally at the Ladd-Peebles Stadium, Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016, in Mobile, Ala.

Trump, speaking Saturday at the final rally of his post-election "thank you" tour, then resisted escalating the spat further, suggesting "she made that statement not meaning it the way it came out."

But as Trump praised the Obamas for treating him so nicely when he visited the White House shortly after the election, many in the Mobile, Alabama, crowd booed the first family.

Michelle Obama, in an interview with Oprah Winfrey set to air Monday on CBS, said she was now certain that her husband's victory had inspired people because "now we're feeling what not having hope feels like."

"What do you give your kids if you can't give them hope?" she added.

Trump's comments about Michelle and President Barack Obama was one of the few conciliatory notes he sounded during a victory tour in which he showed few signs of turning the page from his blustery campaign to focus on uniting a divided nation a month before his inauguration.

At each stop, the Republican gloatingly recapped his election night triumph, reignited some old political feuds while starting some new ones, and did little to quiet the hate-filled chants of "Lock her up!" directed at Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.

At the tour's finale at the same football stadium in Mobile that hosted the biggest rally of his campaign, Trump saluted his supporters as true "patriots" and made little attempt to reach out to the more than half of the electorate that didn't vote for him.

"We are really the people who love this country," said Trump.

He reminisced about his campaign announcement and his ride down Trump Tower's golden escalator. His disputed a newspaper's account of the size of the crowd at one of his rallies and bashed the press as dishonest. And he joked that he had booked a small ballroom for his election night party so, if he lost, he "could get out!"

He paid homage to the August 2015 rally in the same stadium that he said jump-started his campaign. Though the crowd was not as large on Saturday, it was no less fervid, repeatedly chanting "Build the wall!" when Trump renewed his vow to build an impenetrable border at the Mexican border.

Trump brought his nominee for attorney general, Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, up onstage to receive cheers from his hometown crowd. When Trump's plane landed, he received a water cannon salute from a pair of fire trucks and was greeted by several Azalea Trail Maids, local women dressed in antebellum Southern Belle outfits.

The raucous rallies, a hallmark of his campaign, are meant to salute supporters who lifted him to the presidency. But these appearances also have been his primary form of communication since the Nov. 8 election.

Trump has eschewed the traditional news conference held by a president-elect within days of winning. He's done few interviews, announced his Cabinet picks via news release and continues to rely on Twitter to broadcast his thoughts and make public pronouncements.

Boy, 3, out shopping with grandma dies in road rage shooting

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A 3-year-old boy being taken on a shopping trip by his grandmother was killed in a road rage shooting on Saturday when a driver opened fire on the grandmother's car because he thought she "wasn't moving fast enough at a stop sign," police said.

The boy and his grandmother were at the stop sign in southwest Little Rock on Saturday evening when a driver apparently angry about the delay stepped out of his car and opened fire, police said. The boy was struck by gunfire at least once, they said.

The grandmother, who wasn't struck, drove away and called police from a shopping center.

Police arrived at the shopping center and found the boy in the car outside a JCPenney department store. The boy was taken to a hospital, where he died shortly after, becoming the second young child shot dead in a road rage incident in the city in the last few weeks.

Police Lt. Steve McClanahan said investigators believe the boy and his grandmother "were completely innocent" and have no relationship with Saturday's shooter, who was being sought. He said the grandmother simply was "driving the car and was taking her grandson shopping when the incident occurred."

Police said they were looking for an older black Chevrolet Impala that was being driven by a tall black man. They hadn't released any other description of the man and appealed to the public for help finding him.

Last month, a 2-year-old girl was killed when a car drove by and someone fired into her vehicle; the shooter in that case hasn't been captured.

Police Chief Kenton Buckner said the road rage killings were frustrating for the police department and the community, especially because the young victims were "very innocent" and "can do very little to protect themselves."

"We cannot have a community to where the least protected among us, being infants, who are dying these senseless crimes in our city," Buckner said.

Asia

Backers of impeached SKorea president clash with protesters

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Supporters of impeached South Korean President Park Geunhye clashed with anti-Park protesters Saturday, as large crowds of demonstrators again gathered in Seoul to demand the scandal-ridden leader's immediate ouster.

The historically large weekend protests over an explosive corruption scandal pushed South Korea's opposition-controlled parliament to vote this month to impeach Park. The impeachment suspended Park's powers until the Constitutional Court decides whether she should permanently step down or be reinstated.

While polls measure Park's popularity in the low single digits, her impeachment has become a rallying point for her conservative supporters, who turned out in the tens of thousands on Saturday.

They waved the country's national flag and shouted for Park's "illegal" impeachment to be "nullified," and the "rotten" parliament to be dissolved.

The tension was tangible as anti-Park protesters, whose numbers were much bigger, gathered on a boulevard across the street from where Park's supporters were rallying. Protest organizers estimated that about 600,000 anti-Park protesters turned out.

Despite thick lines of police officers separating them, there was some yelling and shoving between the two groups, with one Park supporter hitting an anti-Park protester with the pole of her flag. There were no immediate reports of serious violence or injuries.

Huge throngs of anti-Park protesters later walked toward the presidential offices and residence, known as the Blue House, carrying candles and signs and demanding that Park immediately quit.

Other groups marched toward the office of Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn, who assumed the role as government caretaker after Park was impeached on Dec. 9, and toward the Constitutional Court.

"I can't stand Park for even another day. Nobody wants her, but she's stubbornly sticking around, using taxpayer money like it's her money," said Kim Eun-young, who participated in her third weekend protest.

US says it will work with Duterte after latest outburst

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The United States said Sunday it will work with the Philippine president to address any concerns after he threatened to terminate a pact that allows U.S. troops to visit the Philippines.

President Rodrigo Duterte was enraged after a U.S. government aid agency deferred a vote on a renewal of a major development assistance package for the Philippines over concerns about extrajudicial killings in Duterte's war on illegal drugs, which has left thousands dead.

Although no decision on the aid package has been taken, Duterte on Saturday launched an expletives-laden tirade, telling the U.S. to "prepare to leave the Philippines, prepare for the eventual repeal or the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement."

He was referring to a 1998 accord that governs American forces visiting the Philippines for joint combat exercises. The pact has helped the Philippines contain a violent Muslim insurgency in the south and train and equip Filipino forces facing an assertive China in disputed South China Sea waters.

"You know, tit for tat ... if you can do this, so (can) we. It ain't a one-way traffic," Duterte said, adding tauntingly, "Bye-bye America."

The U.S. Embassy in Manila said in a statement overnight that Washington will work closely with the Duterte administration to address any concerns it may have. It did not elaborate.

The White House didn't immediately respond to a request for comment, but spokesman Josh Earnest has said previously that the White House would not react publicly each time Duterte made an offhand remark.

The 71-year-old Duterte, who describes himself as a left-wing politician, has made similar threats before and after taking office in June, but he and his officials have walked back on many of his public statements, causing confusion.

While calling Americans "sons of bitches" and "hypocrites," Duterte on Saturday praised China as having "the kindest soul of all" for offering what he said was significant financial assistance. "So, what do I need America for?" he asked.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Papua New Guinea quake causes small tsunami, no damage

SYDNEY (AP)—A powerful earthquake struck off the coast of Papua New Guinea on Saturday, generating a small tsunami and knocking out power in parts of the Pacific island nation. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The magnitude-7.9 quake struck 46 kilometers (29 miles) east of Taron in Papua New Guinea, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The quake was deep, at 103 kilometers (61 miles). Deeper earthquakes tend to cause less damage than shallow ones. The USGS initially said the quake's magnitude was 8.0, but later downgraded the strength. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said there was a threat of a tsunami in Papua New Guinea and nearby areas. It said tsunami waves reaching 1-3 meters (yards) high were possible along the coasts of Papua New Guinea, while waves in other areas, including the Solomon Islands, would likely be less than 0.3 meter (1 foot) high.

China says it seized US Navy drone to ensure safety of ships

BEIJING (AP)—China said Saturday its military seized a U.S. Navy unmanned underwater glider in the South China Sea but it would give the drone back. But President-elect Donald Trump tweeted later that the Chinese government should be told "we don't want the drone they stole back" and "let them keep it!" This comes after United States officials had confirmed that they "secured an understanding" for the return of the device. Trump's evening tweet may extend one of the most serious incidents between the American and the Chinese militaries in years. The Chinese navy on Thursday seized the drone, which the Pentagon said was being operated by civilian contractors to conduct oceanic research. The U.S. lodged a formal diplomatic complaint and demanded the drone back. Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun issued a statement late Saturday saying that a Chinese navy lifeboat discovered an unknown device in the South China Sea on Thursday.

World

Evacuees tell of their pain

By SARAH EL DEEB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT (AP)—Death in Aleppo was personal for Modar Sheikho. He lost his sister to government bombing early in the revolt. His brother was killed last month. And as they looked for a place to bury him, another airstrike killed his father.

Still, Shekho held out in the besieged city as long as he could.

When he finally was forced to evacuate Friday, he made a video bidding farewell to the city.

"We were asking for our freedom. This is what we get," he said against a backdrop of bombed-out buildings and thousands of people waiting for buses to take them away from Aleppo.

But even in his first hours of exile, the 28-year-old nurse longed to return.

"My soul is torn out more with each step away from Aleppo," he whispered in an audio message to The Associated Press, not wanting to wake other evacuees in their temporary home in a village west of the ancient city.

He and thousands of others held tight to their crumbling enclave despite a grueling four years of war. Bit by bit over three weeks, the government offensive chipped away at their last refuge.

Their realm of destroyed buildings and crater-filled roads in eastern Aleppo shrank from 17 square miles to just one over a few weeks as forces loyal to President Bashar Assad swept through, neighborhood by neighborhood.

The promise of boarding buses to safety was a relief. But for many like Sheikho, losing Aleppo was inconceivable.

Of the more than half-dozen residents and activists that AP has maintained regular contact with in recent months, only one said he felt disillusioned with the rebellion.

"This revolution is one of the biggest failures in the world," said 21-year-old Ahmed, who has not left the enclave yet and refused to give his family name out of fear of reprisal. "If God saves me from this, I will go to Turkey and start a new life, away from the criminal regime and the deceiving rebels."

Most seemed haunted by the city's struggle, saying they can't let go of their dream to create a Syria without Assad. They said they will continue their anti-government activities somehow from wherever they end up.

One gynecologist who had refused to leave her patients said her husband forced her to flee to a government-controlled area for safety.

The woman, who identified herself only as Farida to protect her family, earlier had sent her daughter out with thousands of other evacuees.

Farida said she could not stand living for even two days in the government-controlled sector and fled to the countryside, where the rebels are in control.

"Despite how hard it was under siege and bombardment, I was at peace with myself," she said.

Pope eats with homeless on 80th birthday, gets 70,000 emails

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis celebrated an active if low-key 80th birthday on Saturday, sharing breakfast with eight homeless people before celebrating Mass with cardinals as greetings poured in from around the world.

The pontiff received more than 70,000 email messages wishing him a happy birthday, as well as telephone calls and telegrams from world leaders and religious figures.

His predecessor, 89-year-old Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI, sent a "very affectionate" written greeting that the Vatican said was "particularly appreciated," followed by a personal call in the afternoon and three small gifts that the bore "very personal and significant meaning for both." The Vatican did not otherwise divulge the nature of the gifts.

At breakfast, Francis chatted individually with each of the homeless guests- four Italians, two Romanians, a Moldovan and a Peruvian - at the Vatican hotel where he resides, and shared Argentinian cakes with them before heading to Mass.

The guests offered the pope a bouquet of sunflowers. They were invited from among those staying around St. Peter's Square and at nearby showers for the homeless established by the pope's almsgiver. The pope also sent enough birthday cakes for 1,500 people to kitchens serving the poor and homeless in Rome.

Speaking to the cardinals, Francis contemplated the aging process.

"For some days now, I have had in mind a word that seems ugly: Old age, a thought that frightens," he said.

But then he recalled his own words during his first papal greeting in 2013, when he said: "Old age is the thirst for knowledge."

He added: "I hope it will be the same for me."

Saturday is a working day at the Vatican and Francis kept up his usual pace. He met with Malta's president and held an audience with members of the Nomadelfia community, a secular group whose lifestyle emulates early Christians, who sang "Happy Birthday" to the pontiff.

The pope experienced the day "with great joy. He was particularly happy by the presence of many children and youths at the audience with the Nomadelfia community," the Vatican said.

Greetings arrived from all corners of the globe, both personal messages and succinct tweets with the hashtag #Pontifex80.

U.S. President Barack Obama said Francis "has inspired people around the world with his message of compassion, hope and peace," while Italian President Sergio Mattarella recalled that the pope has called on Europeans to show solidarity with the less fortunate, in particular "migrants and all those who live at society's margins."

Russian President Vladimir Putin sent Francis a telegram and followed it up with a phone call in which he "remarked on the big contribution he has personally made to strengthen ties between Russia and the Vatican, which moved to a significantly new level in the recent years," the Kremlin said.

Focus

Strain on forgiveness after church massacre, other killings

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The victims' families spoke words of forgiveness in Charleston after nine black people were massacred in a historic church by Dylann Roof, a white man who harbored dreams of launching a race war. The relatives were held up as examples of grace amid horror, and the city stayed calm.

Now, Roof has been convicted in a federal trial, bringing relief tempered by uncertainty over whether he will get the death penalty for his crimes—and whether wanting to see Roof pay with his life is at odds with the call to forgive.

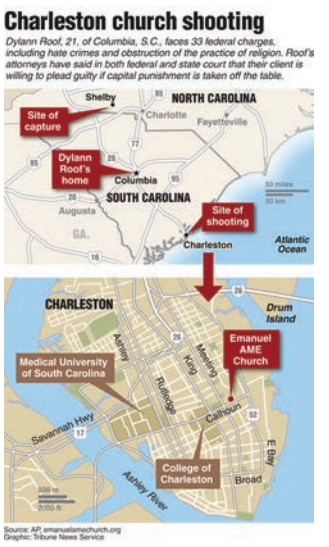
Roof's guilty verdict came less than two weeks after a jury deadlocked in the case of Michael Slager, a white ex-police officer charged with fatally shooting Walter Scott, a black man, as Scott tried to flee an April 2015 traffic stop. The sentencing phase of his trial is scheduled for next month.

The proximity of the cases—tried in courthouses across the street from each other—left Charleston minister Kylon Middleton unsure about where justice actually dwells.

AP

In this June 18, 2015 file photo, Charleston, S.C., shooting suspect Dylann Storm Roof is escorted from the Cleveland County Courthouse in Shelby, N.C.

Middleton counted the slain pastor of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Clementa Pinckney, as his closest friend. Middleton sat in the courtroom daily, from the start of jury selection until Roof's verdict was rendered, mourning his friend and wrestling with forgiveness as he watched a trial with an outcome that felt especially uncertain.



"You can't assume people are going to do the right thing," said Middleton, pastor of Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church. "Some people, based on race or bias ... will never go against someone of the same race."

After the Slager mistrial, nothing is a foregone conclusion—even with an abundance of evidence, said Herb Frazier, co-author of a book about the June 2015 Emanuel church shootings that left nine worshippers dead. They were shot by Roof after he was welcomed into their weekly Bible study.

"A lot of this is unsettling emotionally, and there seems to be no resolution to anything," Frazier said.

Roof was convicted Thursday after more than a week of often emotional testimony that included survivors' accounts of the killings. At his bond hearing last year, several relatives of Roof's victims said they forgave him and asked for God's grace on his soul. The gestures of compassion were praised as a remarkable response to overwhelming grief and tragedy, and held forth as a model for the country.

Felicia Sanders, whose son Tywanza was killed by Roof as he attempted to shield a church elder, has been forced to grapple personally with the question. She told Roof at his bond hearing last summer, "May God have mercy on you."

One of two adult survivors of the shooting, Sanders was the first prosecution witness in Roof's trial. During the trial Sanders called him "evil, evil, evil" and said he "should rot in hell."

Middleton said the families' impulse to forgive may have been more knee-jerk than genuine emotion resulting from a process of contemplation.

"I don't think they had time to absorb the fact that their loved ones were heinously murdered," Middleton said. "The country automatically expected us to be forgiving, causing the national perception of the wonderful people of Charleston."

The Rev. Mark Tyler, pastor of Mother Bethel AME Church in Philadelphia, is still trying to process the Charleston shootings and the notion of forgiveness. After the Slager decision, Tyler was discouraged that "400 years later, we're still in the same place, with many people feeling like black people don't belong here."

"Repeatedly, black people in America have shown the willingness to forgive, but too many refuse to meet us there," Tyler said. "The rest of the country looked at that moment and said, 'This is wonderful,' thinking (blacks) have forgiven white people for all of the wrongs that have happened in America."

Activist Bree Newsome—who made headlines last year when she scaled a flagpole at South Carolina's capitol and pulled down the Confederate flag after the Emanuel shootings—placed the Slager case on a continuum of injustices against black people. Newsome said her Christian faith was moved by the families of the Emanuel shooting victims, but she doesn't necessarily subscribe to the notion of forgiveness around black death.

"Part of our history ... is this pattern of a lot of pressure always being placed on the black community to forgive, to move on, to make peace, when nothing has actually been resolved," said Newsome, adding that her great uncle was lynched and her grandmother saw the Ku Klux Klan attack black people in Jim Crow South Carolina. "It's deeply offensive. It's never just about one incident. It's about this long history of violence that black people have experienced."

Slager is expected to be retried. Outside of the courtroom, Scott's shooting had been seen by many in South Carolina and across the country as an open-and-shut case of guilt. The mistrial was the latest defeat for those pushing for police reforms after similar, recent incidents in cities like Ferguson, Baltimore, Cleveland and Cincinnati—leaving some wondering how high the bar for accountability is for officers who shoot unarmed black men. There have been few officer prosecutions or convictions in recent cases.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Hilaria Kisa Santos

APRIL 18, 1943 - DECEMBER 4, 2016

In her new life she joins
Husband: †Nicolas Baza Santos
Parents: †Enrique Ninaisen & †Luisa Babauta Kisa
Parents-in-Law: †Ramon Agulto & †Magdalena Baza Santos
Brothers: †Manuel Babauta Kisa
Brother-in-Law: †Ramon Basa Santos
Sister-in-Law: †Maria S. Sutherland †Francisca B. Santos

Her memory will live forever in the hearts of her
Children:
Martin C. Dueñas & **Ellen K. Santos**
(Marlaine, Marilynn, Jessylyn & Benny, Martin Jr., Hilaria)
Nic & **Maggie S**. Sablan (Juanet, Nicolas)
Vivian K. Santos
Ken & Arsanti Kisa (Takumi)

Brothers/Sisters, Spouses:
†Manuel B. & Antonia I. Kisa & Family
Felix & Trinidad Kisa & Family
John & Jovita Masiwemai & Family
Doroteo & Diane Kisa & Family
Lourdes Kisa & Family
Herman & Maria Torres & Family

Brother/Sisters-in-Law
Ignacio & Eduvices S. Benavente & Family
Ken & †Maria S. Sutherland & Family
†Ramon B. & Bernardita Santos & Family
Francisca B. Santos & Family

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at Kristo Rai Church from 8:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Services
at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.

Thank you & Si Yuus Ma'ase from the Family

Health & Fitness

Personality trait or mental disorder? The same genes may weigh in on both

By Melissa Healy
LOS ANGELES TIMES

You don't need fancy genome-sequencing or brain-imaging equipment to know that some of the people we know and love are just a little, well, out there.

We used to call these people "worriers," "creative types," "eccentrics" or "loners." Like the rest of us, they seem to have come into the world with some recognizably fixed personality settings: They're friendly or moody or dreamy or disorganized. They're just more extremely so.

Increasingly, we've come to acknowledge that some people who occupy the outer fringes of those character types have psychiatric disorders that stand in the way of their living the lives they want. At some point, the pronounced traits they've had from the start got nudged over an invisible line by age, adversity or life's escalating demands.

They have a mental illness: depression, attention deficit disorder, bipolar depression, schizophrenia.

This notion — that mental illnesses are largely inborn personality traits that get pushed into extreme territory by life experience — has just gotten some high-tech confirmation from researchers at UC San Diego.

Aggregating the genetic profiles of close to 261,000 people, a UCSD team led by neuroscientist Chi-Hua Chen has identified six regions of the human genome that are significantly linked to specific personality traits. And when they compared the genetic regions linked to certain personality traits with the genetic sites that can be linked to certain psychiatric disorders, they found some remarkable points of overlap.

Take, for instance, "neuroticism," one of the "big five" personality traits that psychologists use to measure and describe the fixed behavioral tendencies that collectively make up our personalities. Someone who scores high in neuroticism is generally given to negative emotions such as sadness or anger or dread, whereas someone who scores low on this trait has a generally sunny disposition.

Psychologists have known for many years that high levels of neuroticism predispose a person to depression and anxiety. But Chen and her team found that, in the huge population for which they had detailed genetic information, the places on the genome where variations predicted neuroticism were the same places where variations appeared that were linked to major depressive disorder and generalized anxiety disorder.

The UCSD team also found a link between extraversion – a tendency to be talkative, friendly and highly social – and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Several of the sites on the genome that Chen's team found to be associated with extraversion were the same sites that genetic studies have linked to ADHD.

Chen's team also found "openness," another of the five traits that psychologists use to define our personalities, to be closely linked to schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. In these large groups of people studied, the researchers found that those who are intellectually curious, highly creative, risk-taking and generally open to new experiences tend to have genetic variations in predictable places on the genome. But they also found that people with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder tend to have genetic variations in those same places on the genome.

To hunt for these patterns, called "genome-wide associations," the UCSD team combed through data from four large troves of genetic data. Those came from the commercial genomics service, 23andMe; from the Europe-based Genetics of Personality Consortium; from British-based Biobank and from Decode Genetics, an Iceland-based human genetics company.

The group's findings were published this week in the journal Nature Genetics.

Scores on two of the big five personality traits did not show any association with mental illnesses. Those were agreeableness (an inclination toward cooperative and compassionate behavior) and conscientiousness (a tendency to act responsibly and exercise self-discipline).

Healthy Living

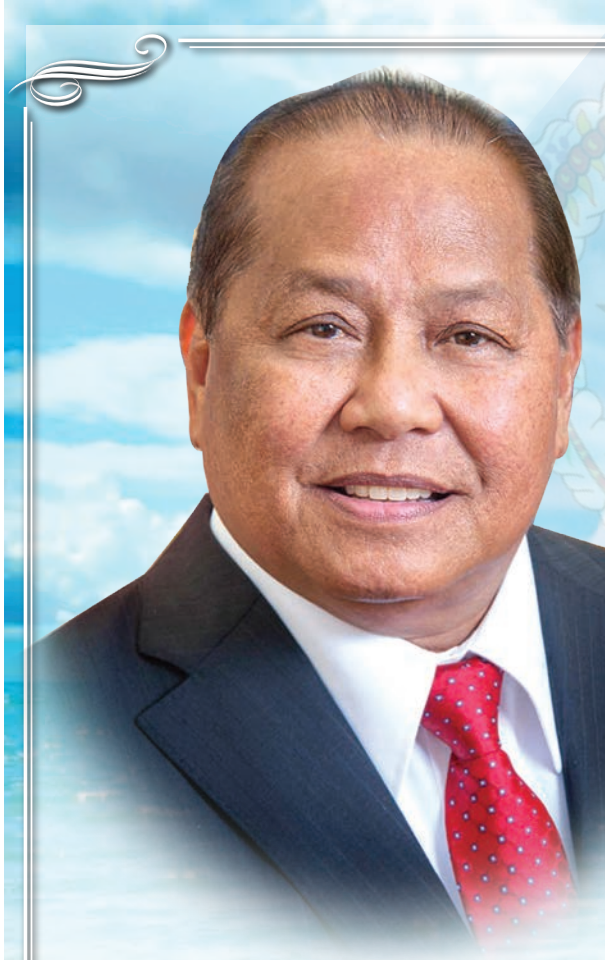
Get juiced? *While proponents say juicing helps your body absorb nutrients, no sound scientific evidence has shown that it is better for you than eating whole fruits and vegetables.*

On the other hand ...

- You may want to try juicing if you don't like to eat fresh fruits and vegetables, or if you want to sample ones you haven't tried
- Make only as much as you can drink at one time since fresh juice develops harmful bacteria quickly
- If you buy commercially made fresh juice, make sure it is pasteurized
- Check the sugar content of the juice; some are high in sugar, which can add unwanted calories

Source: Mayo Clinic, TNS Photo Service

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Missing You

We're missing you a little more
Each time we hear your name,
We've cried so many tears
Yet our heart's broken just the same.
We miss our times together
Things in common we could share.
But nothing fills the emptiness
Now you're no longer there.
We've so many precious memories
To last our whole life through
Each one of them reminders
Of how much we're missing you.

†EULOGIO (ELOY) SONGAO INOS

Born to Life on September 26, 1949
Called to his Eternal Life by our Dear Lord on Monday, December 28, 2015

We, the children, respectfully invite our families and friends to join us in the daily Eucharistic Celebration to be offered in memory of our beloved father beginning Tuesday, December 20, 2016 through Tuesday, December 27th, 2016, 6:00am at Mount Carmel Cathedral. On Wednesday, December 28, 2016, rosary will be said at 5:30pm followed by the Eucharistic Celebration at 6:00pm at Saint Jude Church.

Your thoughts, presence and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow and Thank You

THE CHILDREN

Life & Style

How to spot lies, 'fake news' and propaganda

NEW YORK (AP) —The Pope has endorsed Donald Trump for president.

A Washington, DC, pizzeria is a front for a child sex abuse ring.

George Soros will "bring down" the U.S. by funding "black hate groups."

These are just some examples of viral stories circulated on social media recently that are completely untrue. Facebook on Thursday announced some steps it's taking to stop the spread of such "fake news" on its huge social network.

This includes working with outside fact-checking organizations and drying up financial incentives to what it calls the "worst of the worst" spammers that traffic in made-up stories. But there are basic things news readers can do themselves to spot fake news. And if you want, you can report them to Facebook, which can flag stories for fact-checkers to evaluate.

■ CHECK THE SOURCE

Some hoax sites, designed to draw you in for advertising revenue, feature designs that resemble legitimate, well-known websites. Such "spoofing" can be quite effective —but there are often telltale signs to indicate their true nature.

For example, you should be vary of articles on sites whose addresses, or URLs, that end in "com.co," writes Melissa Zimdars, a communications professor at Merrimack College whose own list of "fake news" sites went viral. (She has since taken it down and published a more general guide .) You can also check the website's "about" page, its list of contacts, and other stories and photos on it. Poke around a little; if things look less-than-official, you're probably on a spoof site.

■ GRAMMAR AND EMOTIONS

Random use of ALL CAPS? Lots of exclamation points? Does it make sense when you read it out loud? Can you imagine a TV newscaster reading it out loud? Is there something just off about it? Does it sound very angry, inflammatory, emotional? None of these are good signs.

■ POKE AROUND FOR OTHER COVERAGE

If a story is real and really big, you will likely (though not always) see some version of it from multiple sources. Is it on sites like ABC News, The Associated Press, the New York Times, or other places you have heard of? Is it featured in your local newspaper, the one printed on actual paper?

Let's put it this way: If the pope actually endorsed Trump, you'd see it everywhere.

■ SOURCES, SOURCES, SOURCES

Anonymous sources can appear in legit as well as made-up news stories. But Googling the people who are named in a story is a good way to check whether the story itself is real. They might have a LinkedIn profile, or appear in other news stories, for example. Someone says they are a university professor? Google the name of the university. Is it a health study on a new cure for cancer? Look it up.

■ ON FACEBOOK

Facebook users often share articles without reading them. Don't be that person.

Instead, click on the link and read the story before hitting the "share" button. If you believe a story someone shared is fake, you can post a comment, or report it to Facebook for outside fact-checking by clicking on the gray arrow on the upper right corner and selecting "report this post." You'll get an option for "It's a fake news story."

Want a hippo this Christmas? The story of girl who got one

LOS ANGELES (AP)—All a cute, curly haired 10-year-old girl named Gayla Peevey wanted for Christmas in 1953 was a hippopotamus.

And amazingly enough, after "I Want a Hippopotamus For Christmas" became the biggest hit song of that holiday season, she actually got one, a 700-pound baby named Matilda. She promptly donated it to the Oklahoma City Zoo, where it lived to be nearly 50, a ripe old age for hippos.

As for Peevey's song, it may never die.

"That one just really took off, and it's still going strong, stronger than ever. Sixty-three years later! Hard to believe," Peevey, an ebullient woman of 73, says during a recent phone interview from her San Diego-area home.

So much so that it's used as a cellphone ringtone these days, included on holiday ornaments and Christmas cards, available for download on iTunes. It's even featured in a U.S. Postal Service commercial in which the post office boasts it ships more online gifts, hippopotamuses included, than anybody.

Some people will tell you it's an annoying ear worm, a tune with such silly lyrics and a melody so maddeningly memorable that it will play endlessly in your head every holiday season until New Year's Day.

But that's part of its charm, says Tim Moore, iHeart Radio's New Hampshire programming director who over the decades has played it plenty of times.

"It's got the sound of an old-time recording," Moore says. "It sounds dated. It sounds a little corny. But that's the thing about it. Also, not to be discounted is its effect on children."

Yes, definitely don't discount that.

For years, Peevey has been hearing from schoolteachers around the world who tell her their students perform the song and can't get enough of it.

"Over 15 years now we've done it, and I don't think we're stopping," laughs Dana Caro, who directs the second-grade Christmas music program at a suburban Southern California school.

Other songs come and go, says Caro, but "Hippo" stays in the mix every year at Arcadia's Longley Way Elementary School.

"Even in class today, we weren't in rehearsal yet when one kid started singing it, and then they were all singing it," added the teacher, who says it has a bounce and a cheeriness that kids love.

And who knows, singing it may actually get a kid a hippo. Unlikely, perhaps, but it did get one for Peevey.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of

Maria Lillian Tenorio Camacho

July 15, 1955 – December 13, 2016

PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS: Lino Pangelinan Tenorio
Magdalena Arriola Tenorio

MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS: Isidro Tudela Sablan
Laura Lizama Sablan

PATERNAL AUNTS & UNCLES:
†Inocencia Trinidad A. Tenorio
†Jose A. & †Crispina T. Tenorio
†Ana T. Chong & †Joaquin L. Chong
†Nicolas A. & †Magdalena DLC. Tenorio
†Luis A. & †Natividad DLC. Tenorio
†Maria T. & Eusebio S. Chargualaf
Consolacion T. & †Leonard James Kaufer
†Lourdes A. Tenorio
†Juan A. Tenorio

MATERNAL AUNTS AND UNCLES:
†Francisco P. Sablan
†Roman P. Sablan
Antonio P. Sablan
Gabriel P. Sablan
Isidro P. & Julie S. Sablan
Bernadita P. Sablan
Laura S. & Jack Reyes
Magdalena S. & Isidro Palacios
Rita P. Sablan
Dolores P. Sablan
Rosa P. Sablan
†Segundo P. Sablan
Gregorio P. Sablan

PARENTS: †Pedro A. Tenorio/Isabel S. Tenorio

CHILDREN: Manuel T. Camacho/Jennifer Santos Camacho (Matthew, Claymore, Ozzy)
Sidney T. Camacho/Victoria Apatang (John David, Donovan, Jacoby, Alaina Elizabeth)
Zachary T. Camacho/Levia Pangelinan (†Zachary Jr., Donovan, Zack Boy, Zion)
Brenda T. Camacho
†Nadine T. Camacho (Lance, Elizabeth)
Sherman T. Camacho/Jennelyn Cepeda Camacho (Julianna, Shanelle)

SIBLINGS: Pedro S. Tenorio Jr./ Virginia Camacho Tenorio
Margarita T. Cabrera/†Maximo Camacho Cabrera
Laura T. Quitano/Jose Quitano
Lino S. Tenorio/Marcela Tudela Tenorio
Magdalena T. Aguon/Jose Quichocho Aguon
Catherine S. Tenorio/Sixto Kaipat Igisomar

INLAWS: Mercedes C. Maratitia/†Isias Maratita
Augustina C. Cabrera/Jose Cabrera
Wihelma Juana C. DLG/†Jesus Q. DLG.
Arthuro F. Camacho/†Maria Balajadia
Frederico F. Camacho/Magdalena Castro
†Leonardo F. Camacho
Alfonsinia C. Taylor/Jim Taylor
Anicia C. DlCruz/Thomas DLCruz
Rosiky F. Camacho/Winnie Aldan Cabrera
Immaculada C. Arriola/Abraham Arriola
Rufino F. Camacho/Kiyomi Mafnas

She is also survived by numerous aunts & uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins and Godchildren.

On Friday, December 23, 2016 at 7:30am, her remains will be escorted from the CHC chapel to San Roque Church. Responso and Rosary will commence upon arrival followed by viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will then be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. immediately followed by interment at San Roque Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Mr. Faustino Flores Camacho & Family

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Julia Roberts to take on first-ever starring TV series role

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Julia Roberts is set to star in her first-ever TV series. The Hollywood Reporter says Roberts will star in a limited series based on Maria Semple's novel, "Today Will Be Different." Roberts will star as the book's main character, Eleanor Flood. Semple tells the magazine she's giddy "Eleanor Flood will be brought to life by Julia Roberts." Roberts also is set to produce the series. No network for the project has been announced. Roberts has done numerous guest appearances on various TV series over the years, but this project would be her first in a regular role.

Rare plant named after rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix

SAN DIEGO (AP)—California researchers have named a newly discovered rare plant after Jimi Hendrix. The plant, found in Baja California, Mexico, has been christened Dudleya hendrixii , or "Hendrix's liveforever." Liveforevers are a kind of succulent with enormous lifespans. This one is a stalky plant less than a foot tall with pinkish-white flowers that dies in summer and re-sprouts in fall. San Diego State University says a former graduate student, Mark Dodero, discovered the plant—supposedly while listening to Hendrix's song "Voodoo Child." The university says Dodero and Stephen McCabe of the University of California, Santa Cruz, decided to name it for the late rock guitarist. However, unlike Hendrix's music, the plant is in peril. San Diego State says its two-acre habitat is threatened by farming, off-road vehicles and development.

Poland in talks to buy da Vinci, other works from owners

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Poland's Culture Ministry says it is making efforts to preserve for the nation one of Europe's most precious private art collections that includes works by Leonardo da Vinci and Rembrandt. The ministry said Friday the goal is to ensure the Czartoryski family collection, based in Krakow, southern Poland, receives proper care, and to preserve the artworks "in Poland for future generations." It did not directly say that it plans to buy the vast collection, which includes da Vinci's "Lady with an Ermine" and Rembrandt's "Landscape with the Good Samaritan." Culture Minister Piotr Glinski has suggested the da Vinci might be sold abroad. The Czartoryski Foundation had no comment but did not deny the government statement. Polish media have suggested the foundation lacks sufficient means to keep the collection.

First lady: 'Hidden Figures' shows importance of diversity

WASHINGTON (AP)—Michelle Obama says the movie "Hidden Figures" shows how diversity helps move the country forward. The first lady commented at a White House screening of the film Thursday featuring cast members Taraji P. Henson, Janelle Monae, Octavia Spencer and Kevin Costner. The movie tells the story of three black female NASA mathematicians whose work in the early 1960s enabled the first launches of Americans into space, including astronaut John Glenn's orbiting of the earth. The 95-year-old Glenn died last week. Mrs. Obama noted that the black mathematicians couldn't use the same water fountains or bathrooms as their colleagues. But she says their example shows that "you don't come up with the right answer if everyone at the table looks the same and thinks the same and has the same experience."

Laundromat featured in Affleck movie 'The Town' burns down

BOSTON (AP)—A laundromat featured in the Ben Affleck movie "The Town" has been destroyed in a fire in Boston. The Monument Laundromat in the city's Charlestown section burned Friday in a blaze reported shortly before 7 a.m. Officials say several people were displaced from apartments in the two upper floors of the three-story building. No injuries were reported. The cause was still being investigated. The Boston Fire Department said temperatures in the single digits made for tough work for firefighters and caused some hydrants to freeze. Thick ice built up on firefighters' jackets, ladders and trucks. Affleck directed, co-wrote and starred in the 2010 movie. He introduces himself to his love interest in a scene set in the laundromat, which sits a few blocks from the Bunker Hill monument.

Tina Turner's life and songs inspire stage musical

LONDON (AP)—Simply the best news for Tina Turner fans: The music legend's life and songs are headed for the stage. Production company Stage Entertainment says it is developing a musical based on Turner's story and written by Katori Hall, the playwright behind civil rights-era drama "The Mountaintop." Also involved are director Phyllida Lloyd, choreographer Anthony van Laast and designer Mark Thompson, who all worked on hit ABBA musical "Mamma Mia." On Friday Turner attended a workshop in London for the show, which has been in the works for a year. The 77-year-old entertainer said in a statement that "it has been wonderful to collaborate with Katori and Phyllida and to have my story nurtured by such an amazing creative team is thrilling."

'Rogue One' takes off with $29 million opening night

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" blasted into theaters with a $29 million opening night, according to Friday estimates from Disney. It's the biggest Thursday preview of 2016, narrowly topping "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice's" $27.7 million and "Captain America: Civil War's" $25 million. But it doesn't hold a candle to last year's Star Wars installment "The Force Awakens," which brought in a record $57 million from Thursday night showings. Directed by Gareth Edwards and set before the events of the original 1977 "Star Wars," ''Rogue One" is the first in a series of planned spinoff films set in the Star Wars universe. It's expected to earn over $130 million this weekend, which would make it the second-biggest December debut ever behind "The Force Awakens," which fetched $247.9 million.

'DuckTales' lands David Tennant as Scrooge McDuck

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Disney's new version of the 1980s animated series "DuckTales" is getting a cast worth quacking about, including a former Doctor Who. Disney said Friday that David Tennant will be the voice of Scrooge McDuck, the wealthy great-uncle of Huey, Dewey and Louie. Tennant played the title role of the "Doctor Who" series for five years. The trio of mischievous nephews will be voiced by Danny Pudi, Ben Schwartz and Bobby Moynihan. Other cast members include Beck Bennett as Launchpad McQuack; Toks Olagundoye as Mrs. Beakley, and Kate Micucci as Webby Vanderquack. The actors offer their renditions of the original "DuckTales" theme in a video . The original "DuckTales" aired from 1987-90. The new series will debut next summer on Disney XD channels worldwide, with Donald Duck's role yet to be filled.

WALK OF FAME AP

Ryan Reynolds is the latest celebrity to earn a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The 40-year-old "Deadpool" actor was honored Thursday in a ceremony along Hollywood Boulevard. Reynolds recalled walking down the same street for the first time as a teenager. He said seeing his name added to the walk is beyond anything he could have ever imagined. Reynolds was accompanied by his wife, actress Blake Lively, and their two daughters. He was also joined by his older brothers and his mother at the event. Actress Anna Faris also spoke at the ceremony. Reynolds' star near the Dolby Theatre, which is home to the Academy Awards, is the 2,596th along the Walk of Fame.

Man back in dating game must try and try again

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 57-year-old male who has been thrust back into the dating scene. I'm financially secure, in good health and have a good career. I'm searching for someone near my age who has similar achievements in life, someone I can communicate with in and out of the bedroom. Simple request, right?

What I'm realizing is that dating hasn't changed much over the years. If one of the parties isn't happy and decides to leave, someone gets hurt. (I have been on both sides.) I am starting to fear expressing my feelings openly and honestly, and if it eventually does come to sex, it's creating performance anxiety. I understand this is all part of the dating ritual and called "baggage," but for me, it's preventing me from being honest, and I'm trying to avoid it.

I see a female therapist who says I just haven't met the right person yet, and I agree. I have a female friend in a similar situation who has become so bitter she now avoids men completely. My male friends tell me to quit looking for a long-term commitment and just date for sex. Neither of these options appeals to me.

My age-old question is: How does a person find a happy balance in this dating world?

DATING SCENE IN ARIZONA

DEAR DATING SCENE: "Dating" means different things to different people. To your male friends—as you have found out—it means a sexual free-for-all. For others, dating is a sifting process that lasts until they meet someone they're comfortable enough with to communicate honestly.

In any successful relationship, communication is key. That's why it's important to be honest with the women you meet, and for them to be the same way with you. That's how people get to know each other beyond the surface, and it's how trust is built. Chemistry is important, but it has to be mutual. You will know it when you find it. Listen to what your therapist is saying because she's steering you in the right direction.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My son's girlfriend of five years and her 8-year-old daughter have been living with my son for the last four years. She has recently started introducing my husband and me as her daughter's "grandparents." Tonight she asked for details about my father so her daughter could include them in a paper she is writing about her "family." The daughter's father and his current wife had twins recently, and I understand from her mother that she is somewhat jealous.

I feel uncomfortable with this new description of our relationship, although I don't want to hurt the girl. Should I say something to my son's girlfriend or my son?

FAMILY DETAILS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR FAMILY DETAILS: The word from here is: Keep your lips zipped! If you object, it will cause only hard feelings. You say your son and his girlfriend have been living together for four years. If they should have a child together, do you plan to treat that child differently? Face it, you ARE in the role of a grandparent. My advice is to accept it graciously and act accordingly.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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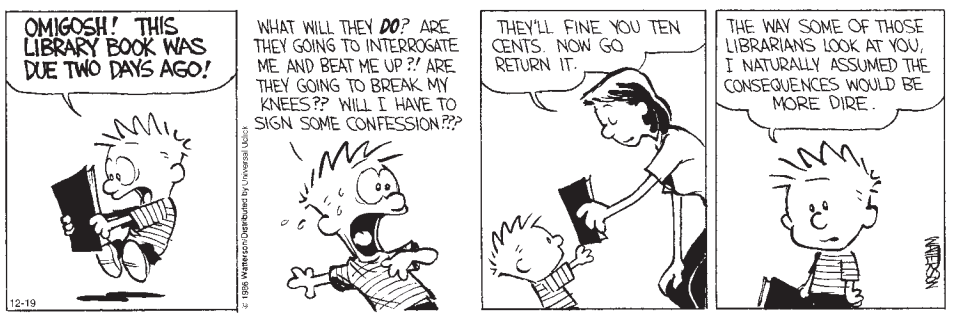
Pastimes

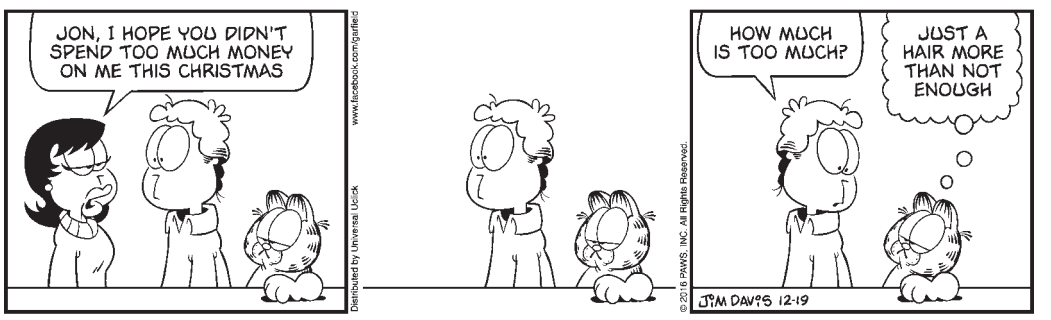
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OMIGOSH! THIS LIBRARY BOOK WAS DUE TWO DAYS AGO!
WHAT WILL THEY DO? ARE THEY GOING TO INTERROGATE ME AND BEAT ME UP?! ARE THEY GOING TO BREAK MY KNEES?? WILL I HAVE TO SIGN SOME CONFESSION???
THEY'LL FINE YOU TEN CENTS. NOW GO RETURN IT.
THE WAY SOME OF THOSE LIBRARIANS LOOK AT YOU, I NATURALLY ASSUMED THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE MORE DIRE.
12-19
© 1986 Watterson/Distributed by Universal Uclick

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


JON, I HOPE YOU DIDN'T SPEND TOO MUCH MONEY ON ME THIS CHRISTMAS
HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?
JUST A HAIR MORE THAN NOT ENOUGH
JIM DAVIS 12-19
www.facebook.com/garfield
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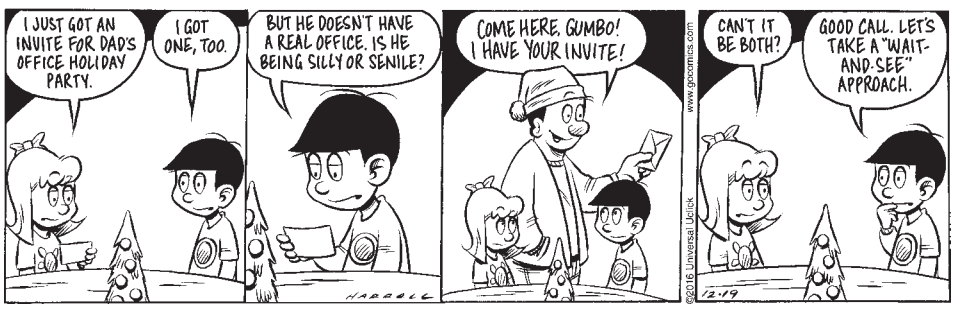
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I JUST GOT AN INVITE FOR DAD'S OFFICE HOLIDAY PARTY.
I GOT ONE, TOO.
BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE A REAL OFFICE. IS HE BEING SILLY OR SENILE?
COME HERE, GUMBO! I HAVE YOUR INVITE!
CAN'T IT BE BOTH?
GOOD CALL. LET'S TAKE A "WAIT-AND-SEE" APPROACH.
HARRELL
©2016 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
12-19

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WE MISSED OUR RIDE. COULD YOU CHAPS DROP US OFF ABOUT 4,000 MILES UP NORTH ON YOUR WAY HOME?
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12/19

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Binge
4 Houston player
9 Wet dirt
12 "— Believer"
13 Red Square figure
14 Chemical suffix
15 Christmas greenery
17 NASCAR adver-tiser
18 Scepter
19 Excellent
21 Be a night owl
24 Do in
25 "2001" computer
26 Plaything
28 Property claims
31 Curved lines
33 Narc's org.
35 Russian refusal
36 Sounds from Santa
38 Soon-to-be grads
40 Ms. Longoria
41 Power co. supply
43 Miss Muffet's bugaboo
45 Actress Anderson
47 Dawn goddess
48 Frazier foe
49 Noted news-weekly, with "The"
54 Dol. fractions
55 Venice waterway
56 To and —
57 DIY buy
58 Workshop array
59 Go astray

DOWN
1 Huck's raftmate
2 Parisian pal
3 Petrol
4 No-holds-barred
5 Bean container
6 Potent stick
7 Mob scenes
8 "Anna Christie" play-wright
9 Weepy
10 Golden rule word
11 Actor Johnny
16 Attempt
20 Ache
21 Persian bigwig
22 Tropical tuber
23 Medieval scientist
27 "You bet!"
29 Actress Campbell
30 Luminary
32 Only
34 Weapons store
37 Choose
39 Thread holders
42 Chocolate source
44 Belief
45 Prepare to travel
46 Choir voices
50 Music's Yoko
51 Condi-tions
52 — Lanka
53 Heavy weight

Solution time: 28 mins.

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			O	F	T		C	U	R	A	T	E
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			P	R	O	M	S		P	O	E	
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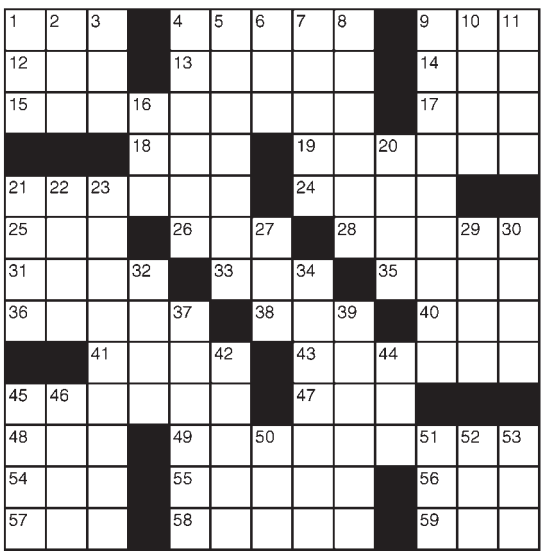
A	B	B	O	T		R	E	X		I	K	E
M	I	S	S	Y		D	R	Y		L	S	D

Friday's answer 12 - 19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Marla Sokoloff, 36; Jake Gyllenhaal, 36; Alyssa Milano, 44; Tyson Beckford, 46.

Happy Birthday: Sit down, size up your situation and make decisions based on facts and figures. Consider the changes you need to make and the best way to go about reaching your goal. Timing is everything, and delegating responsibilities to others doesn't mean you have to lose control. The objective is to win. Ask for assistance if you need it. Don't let pride interfere. Your numbers are 2, 13, 22, 28, 36, 39, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Live a little. Attend functions that will get you in the spirit of the season. Plan a trip or visit relatives. Explore new opportunities and meet new people. Offer kindness, affection and help to those in need. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Reconnect with people you have worked with in the past and plant the seed for future projects that interest you. Networking at festive functions will help you make connections that can lead to future advancement. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't overload your plate. Scheduling too many functions, activities or plans will weigh you down emotionally and cause unnecessary anxiety. Back up, take a deep breath and spend time taking care of yourself. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Sit tight. Don't feel the need to go overboard or take on too much. Focus on being unique and following your instincts and you will not go wrong. Changes to the way you handle the holiday season will lead to less stress. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll have plenty of good ideas, but that doesn't mean you should overspend to impress someone. Pay more attention to home improvements that will add to your festive celebrations and bring comfort and joy to your family and friends. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stay focused on what needs to be done in order to take care of unfinished business. Your words will hold credence and help you get things done. Leave enough time to take care of the needs of your family members, especially elders and children. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Think outside the box when you are looking for that special something for someone you love. You can change the nature of your relationship with the people you care about through simple gestures. A personal makeover will give you a boost. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Splitting your time between work and home will be exhausting. Take a moment to relax and you'll come up with a unique idea that can help you cut corners in preparation for your year-end deadlines. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take care of unfinished business. Stay on budget and refuse to let anyone talk you into debts you cannot manage. Emotional deception regarding contracts, settlements, investments and medical matters can be expected. Plan your course of action promptly and conservatively. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Simplicity, stability and sticking to your game plan will help you avoid a financial setback. Travel plans will cause delays and last-minute changes. Stay within your budget and maintain a stable and well-thought-out course of action. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Personal changes will give you the confidence you need to face old friends. Update your style to a trendy new look. Financial gains or gifts you receive will change your life and set you up for new beginnings. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Emotional situations will lead to uncertainty at a time of year when you should be trying to tie up loose ends and head into new beginnings with a clean slate. Address controversial situations with an intelligent, diplomatic approach. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, caring and goal-oriented. You are impulsive and outgoing.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6				1				5
		2				7		
	9		8		6		2	
7	6		5		3		4	2
5				4				9
4	2		9		7		8	3
	4		1		5		6	
		7				9		
1				9				8

Difficulty Level ★ 12/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	3	2	4	7	9	8	6
7	6	8	5	9	1	2	3	4
2	4	9	3	8	6	1	5	7
3	1	7	8	6	2	4	9	5
9	8	6	4	7	5	3	2	1
5	2	4	1	3	9	6	7	8
4	7	1	9	5	3	8	6	2
6	9	2	7	1	8	5	4	3
8	3	5	6	2	4	7	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PUT IT IN MY JUICER **Solution: 8 letters**

P	B	D	E	O	Y	R	R	E	B	N	A	R	C	E
E	O	L	E	P	G	I	N	G	E	R	D	O	Z	G
P	T	M	U	T	I	N	S	T	U	N	L	U	E	N
P	E	A	E	E	O	C	A	B	O	D	C	M	R	A
E	L	A	R	G	B	X	E	M	Y	C	T	E	T	R
R	K	I	C	T	R	E	L	R	H	U	T	E	I	O
M	A	A	S	H	N	A	R	I	N	A	Ⓜ	C	U	R
I	M	Y	L	A	L	E	N	R	W	R	Ⓘ	U	R	E
N	E	O	A	E	B	I	C	A	Y	I	Ⓛ	T	F	B
T	L	C	M	P	K	B	O	N	T	R	Ⓚ	T	E	M
O	O	O	S	P	A	T	A	C	O	E	E	E	N	U
M	N	A	M	N	A	P	R	O	L	C	M	L	N	C
A	R	U	A	T	P	A	R	S	L	E	Y	I	E	U
T	P	N	O	L	E	I	S	E	S	N	A	E	L	C
O	A	P	E	P	P	E	R	S	T	O	R	R	A	C

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Almond, Apple, Banana, Basil, Blueberry, Carrots, Celery, Cleanses, Cold, Concentrate, Cranberry, Cucumber, Detox, Fennel, Fruit, Ginger, Kale, Kiwi, Lemon, Lettuce, Lime, Mango, Melon, Milk, Nutmeg, Nuts, Orange, Papaya, Parsley, Peach, Pear, Peppermint, Peppers, Pomegranate, Potato, Pumpkin, Raspberry, Recipe, Tomato, Water, Zucchini

Last Friday's Answer: Portion

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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- Must be able to work Evenings/Overtime if needed
- Must possess valid CNMI Drivers License
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- Must be able to travel

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Opening Date: December 19, 2016
Closing Date: January 6, 2017

Position: **Accountant I**
Salary: **PL 32-1, $24,889.35 to PL 32-4, $28,807.51 per annum**
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, January 6, 2017, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than January 6, 2017, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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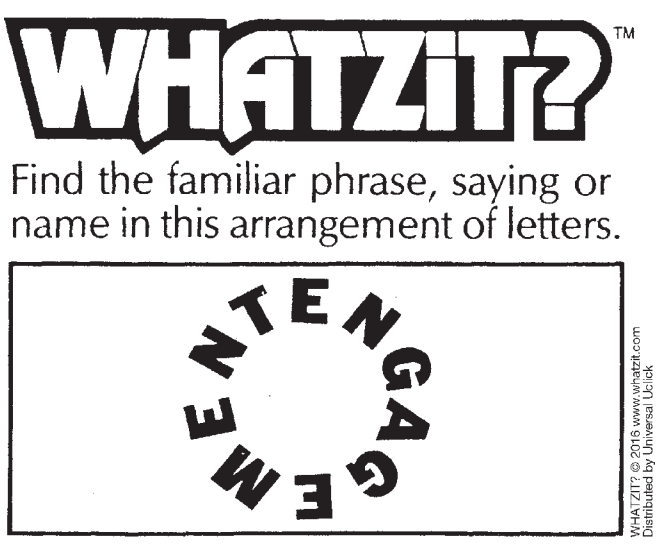


Find today's solution in classified section

Westbrook claims 50th career triple-double; Thunder top Suns

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Russell Westbrook passed the credit around like he shared the ball on Saturday night.

Westbrook had a career-high 22 assists in his 50th career triple-double, leading the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 114-101 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

"My teammates did a great job of spacing, catching and finishing, making some shots," he said. "My job is to be able to find those guys. The ball is in my hands a lot."

Westbrook also scored 26 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in his 13th triple-double of the season. He had gone three games without one, yet the league's leading scorer continues to average double figures in points, rebounds and assists.

Westbrook set up his teammates for much of the night, but he also showed why he averages more than 30 points per game. He scored 17 points on 5-for-9 shooting in the third quarter to help the Thunder push their lead out to 20 points.

"As the game goes on, I read and kind of see what's open," he said. "And I can go back to different things that I see that's open and try to find ways to be assertive and when not to be. That's just something I've learned over the years."

Steven Adams had 19 points and seven rebounds and Enes Kanter added 12 points for Oklahoma City, which had dropped two in a row. Thunder guard Victor Oladipo, the team's No. 2 scorer for the season, missed his third straight game with a right wrist sprain.

AP

Phoenix Suns guard Eric Bledsoe, left, falls backwards following an offensive foul by Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook, right, in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016.

Devin Booker scored 31 points for the Suns, who have lost six of eight.

The Thunder led 54-39 at halftime. Westbrook had 12 assists before the break, a Thunder record for a half. Phoenix's first-half scoring total matched the lowest allowed by the Thunder in a half all season.

It took Westbrook a while to get to double figures in points—he finally got there on a free throw with 8:41 left in the third quarter. He was stuck on nine rebounds when he went to the bench with 2:35 left in the third.

He re-entered the game with 8:44 to play, and he got his 10th rebound almost immediately upon his return.

"He is putting up phenomenal numbers," Suns center Tyson Chandler said. "I think it really just comes down to heart, passion and will. Every second, he is going full speed, giving 100 percent. He is just putting his will into the game."

Cavaliers 119, Lakers 108

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 16 points in the fourth quarter while Kyrie Irving matched a career high with 12 assists as the refreshed Cavaliers finally put away the Lakers in the fourth quarter.

Kevin Love had 27 points and a season-high 17 rebounds, leading the Cavs to their sixth win in seven games.

The Cavs were back at full strength after coach Tyronn Lue left James, Love and Irving behind earlier this week for a game in Memphis, a decision that sparked some criticism as fans were denied a chance to see the three stars and Cleveland lost.

Irving looked more like himself in his first game in a week, adding 21 points as the Cavs improved to 19-6.

Nick Young made eight 3-pointers and scored a season-high 32 for the Lakers, who snapped an eight-game losing streak on Friday in Philadelphia.

Hornets 107, Hawks 99

In Atlanta, Marvin Williams and Marco Belinelli each scored 19 points as Charlotte snapped a four-game losing streak.

Kemba Walker had 18 points and 10 assists for Charlotte, which grabbed control with a big second quarter. Cody Zeller finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Tim Hardaway Jr. had 21 points for Atlanta and Paul Millsap scored 14 of his 20 points in the third quarter. Dwight Howard grabbed a season-high 23 rebounds, three shy of his career best.

The Hawks have lost five of six at home and 12 of 16 overall, a freefall since starting the season 9-2 and tying for the Eastern Conference lead.

Pacers 105, Pistons 90

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Paul George scored 26 points and Jeff Teague added 19, helping Indiana to the road win.

The Pacers had six players score in double figures and shot 48 percent from the field while stopping a two-game slide. Glenn Robinson III had 12 points and 12 rebounds, and Thaddeus Young also scored 12 points on 6-for-8 shooting.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 20 points for Detroit and Reggie Jackson finished with 19 points and 10 assists. Tobias Harris added 13 points and Andre Drummond grabbed 15 rebounds.

The Pistons shot 38 percent from the field in their third loss in four games.

Cheerful, colorful NBA reporter Craig Sager dies at 65

HOUSTON (AP)—Craig Sager never once thought about giving up as he battled cancer for more than two years.

"Man, life is too beautiful, too wonderful, there's just too many things," he said in late August. "It's not just you. It's your family and kids and all. Fight. Fight until the end. Fight as hard as you can."

The end for the beloved TNT broadcaster came Thursday when the man known as much for his outrageous wardrobe as his relationships with the NBA's elite succumbed to the disease he fought so hard to overcome. Turner Sports announced his death without disclosing details. He was 65 and had worked basketball games for TNT for nearly a quarter-century.

"There will never be another Craig Sager," Turner President David Levy said. "His incredible talent, tireless work ethic and commitment to his craft took him all over the world covering sports."

His son, Craig Jr., posted a loving video tribute to his father, tweeting: "We packed a lifetime and then some into these 28 years together."

Sager's passing brought out condolences from every corner of the NBA and Hall of Famer Larry Bird expressed what many were feeling.

"He was as identifiable with the NBA as any player or coach," Bird said. "The league will not be the same without him."

Magic Johnson echoed those sentiments on Twitter.

"The NBA family lost a legend who changed the way sideline reporters did their job. RIP Craig Sager," Johnson said.

It wasn't just the NBA community that mourned his passing , with Vice President Joe Biden and Drake expressing sadness at the loss.

Sager had two bone marrow transplants with his son as the donor before undergoing a third one from an anonymous donor at the end of August in Houston to fight an aggressive form of leukemia. To no one's surprise, he was characteristically cheerful .

"It really isn't all that painful, not physically," he said then. "I think the hardest toll is mentally and emotionally. I have this thing of positive thinking. I think if you think something is going to be right and you think positive then you feel that way and if you feel that way you'll act that way. I try not to get down."

Sager announced in April 2014 that he had been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, and he missed the playoffs and much of the following season as he underwent the first two transplants. Sager revealed in March 2016 that his leukemia was no longer in remission. He said doctors told him the typical prognosis was three to six months to live.

He was overwhelmed by how news of his fight spread and people across the world started talking about the Sager Strong campaign.

"At first was our family's fight," Sager said. "Then because of TV and TNT and people seeing me in the stands and I talk to people and then it got bigger and then that inner circle became an endless world to tell you the truth."

Sager then started gaining inspiration from everyone who shared their story or reached out to show support.

"They saw that I refused to give up and I refused to give in and that I'm still fighting it and they saw a lot of inspiration in what I was doing," he said. "Now I feel I'm not only fighting for what I want and what my family wants, but for everybody out there who has cancer or will."

His battle brought out the soft side of Gregg Popovich, the prickly San Antonio Spurs coach with whom he had many memorable exchanges during in-game interviews.

Sager never faulted Popovich for his gruff attitude during those interviews, saying "he's trying to win a game. He doesn't want to talk to some reporter."

"Later, he said, 'You're still going to be media on the court, but off the court can I call you and see how you're doing?' I said: 'Heck yes,'" Sager recalled in August. "Just keep treating me the way on the court you always do. He said: 'I wouldn't want it any other way.'"

After learning Sager had died, Popovich spoke somberly for close to two minutes before a game in Phoenix.

"A day like this, basketball has to take a back seat, as we all think about somebody who was very unique, very special," Popovich said. "Whether you really knew Craig or not, you got the feeling that he was a very special person in a lot of different ways, and right now I just feel for his family."

"He was a way better person than he was a worker, even though he was amazing in that regard. He loved all the people around him and everybody felt that," he said. "The most amazing part of him is his courage ... if any of us can display half the courage he has to stay on this planet, to live every life as if it's his last, we'd be well off."

Sager sported suits in every color of the rainbow and plenty of shades not found in nature, from teal to fuchsia to magenta. He would match plaid blazers with paisley ties or striped shirts - all in bold hues.

Kevin Garnett once told him to burn an entire outfit. In a 2016 interview with HBO's "Real Sports," Sager recalled how Popovich reproached him for trying to stand out. Sager explained to him: "Coach, you don't understand. If I'm not wearing bright colors and if I don't feel lively, it's not me."

Moore sets career high with 4 TDs as Miami routs Jets

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Matt Moore's first game as Ryan Tannehill's replacement was the best of his career.

The nine-year veteran stepped in Saturday night by throwing for four touchdowns in keeping the Miami Dolphins' playoff hopes very much alive with a 34-13 rout of the New York Jets.

In his first start since Jan. 1, 2012—a Dolphins victory over the Jets, with current New York coach Todd Bowles serving as interim Miami coach—Moore picked apart the mistake-prone hosts.

He hit Dion Sims for a pair of 1-yard TDs and Kenny Stills for 52 and Jarvis Landry for 66 in Miami's eighth win in its last night games. The Dolphins (9-5) clinched their first winning season since 2008, the last time they won the AFC East.

Should Moore (12 for 18 for 236 yards) continue such strong play, they certainly can be optimistic about playing in the postseason.

"There were some nerves and maybe it showed a little early," said Moore, whose wife gave birth to son Wyatt Monday. "We started slow, but got in the groove in the middle part. Once we got going, that negative stuff wore offf and I got on a roll. Credit these guys for getting us going and making plays. Once those guys got the ball in their hands, it was impressive."

The Jets (4-10) have lost as many games as they won in 2015, Bowles' first season in charge. They also lost second-year quarterback Bryce Petty on the first play of the fourth quarter after he was squashed by Ndamukong Suh and Cameron Wake and injured his chest.

For good measure, the Dolphins threw in an 11-yard blocked punt return touchdown by Walt Aiken.

"The defense did a great job with turnovers, just causing problems," coach Adam Gase said. "The pressure was relentless. And Walt is a guy making a huge impact on special teams, just now it's resulting in points."

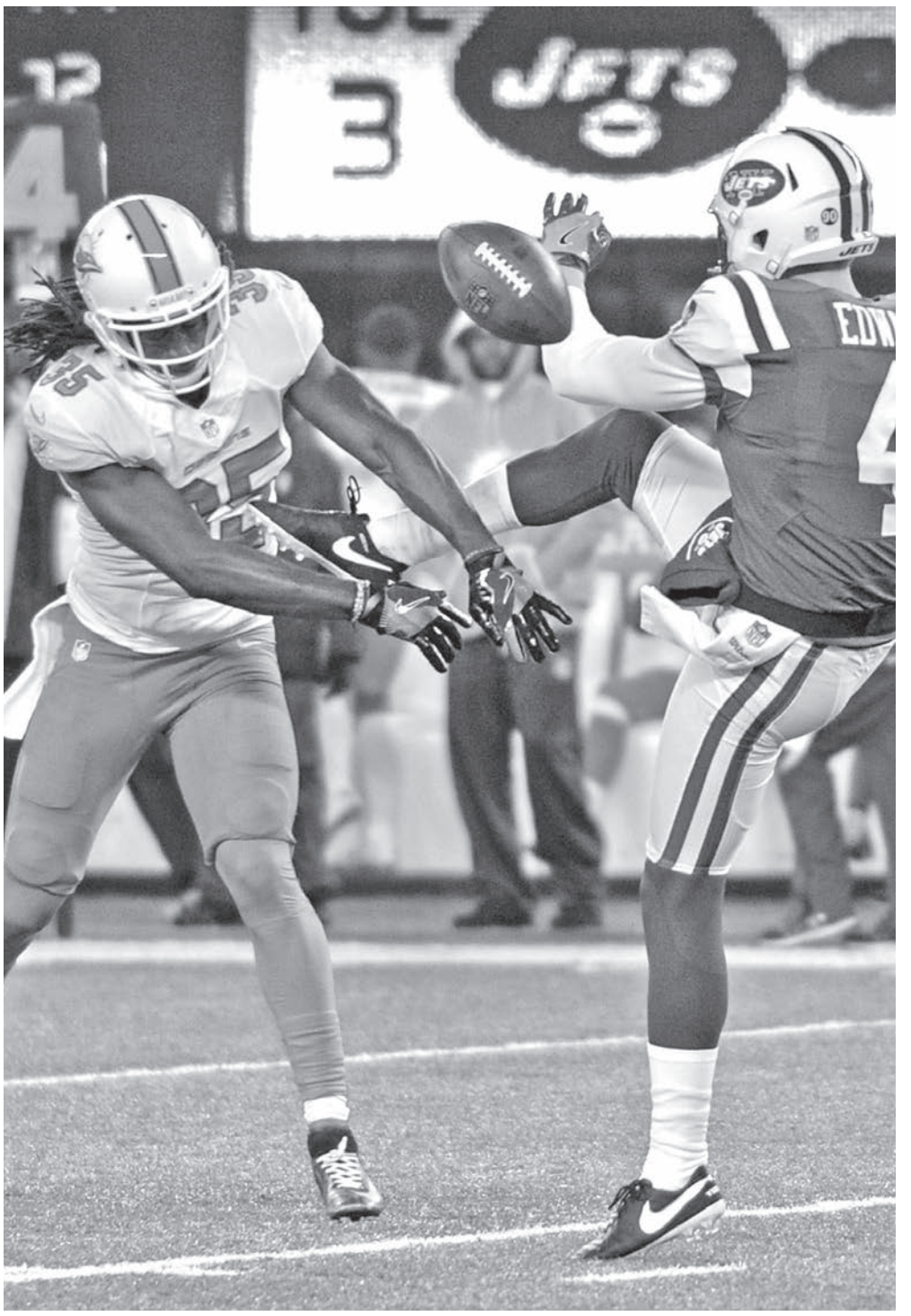
The game was competitive for a half. For once, the Jets started quickly. They were awful in the first half of their last two outings, but Petty immediately guided them 75 yards in seven plays for a 7-0 lead. Robby Anderson, coming on at receiver late in the year, badly beat Bacarri Rambo on a crossing pattern and sped into the end zone.

It took a replay challenge by Gase to get an incompletion overturned into Sims' first 1-yard touchdown pass early in the second quarter - Moore's first TD throw since Week 8 of 2012, also against the Jets. Andrew Franks' extra point kick hit the left upright, his first miss this season.

Eighth-year defensive end Wake's first career interception on an awful throw by Petty thwarted another New York threat in the opening half. And the Dolphins stopped Bilal Powell on a fourth-and-1 run near midfield.

"He has that knack of timing," Gase said about Wake. "He knows there are moments that can swing a game."

Those plays set up Moore's perfect pass to Stills behind rookie cornerback Justin Burris for a 13-7 lead.



AP

Miami Dolphins free safety Walt Aikens (35) blocks a punt by New York Jets punter Lac Edwards (4) during the third quarter of an NFL football game, Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Powell had a big first half with 113 yards total offense. But it only helped get 10 points; Nick Folk made a 48-yard field goal with 18 seconds left. Powell gained only 36 yards in the second half.

The Dolphins were outgained by 225 yards to 129, yet went to the locker room ahead 13-10.

From there, it was all Miami, getting Aikens' and Landry's scores and Sims' second TD.

"Oh, they were prepared, but when we play like that, it all falls on me," Jets coach Todd Bowles said. "It starts at the top. I've got to do a better job, and they've got to do a better job. But it starts with me."

BLOCK THAT PUNT

Aiken's short return of the blocked punt was the Dolphins' first touchdown on such a play since Jimmy Wilson did it at MetLife Stadium against the Jets in that same game in October 2012.

THOUSANDS UPONS THOUSANDS

Dolphins receiver Jarvis Landry went over 1,000 yards for the second time in his three-year career. Landry made three catches for 108 yards and now has 1,031.

Miami running back Jay Ajayi rushed for only 51 yards, but that was enough to boost the second-year player to 1,007.

ROCKIN' ROBBY

Anderson became the first Jets receiver with two 40- yard touchdowns in a season since Braylon Edwards in 2010. His other came on the team's previous touchdown at MetLife Stadium, the final score in a 41-10 loss to Indianapolis.

INJURIES

Miami starting CB Byron Maxwell left in the first quarter with an ankle injury.

Jets first-round draft pick LB Darron Lee injured an eye.

Seahawks take NFC West title with 24-3 win over Rams

SEATTLE (AP)—For all the flaws, the Seattle Seahawks are back where they always expected to be.

In the postseason and as champions of the NFC West.

"I think it's a huge significance in terms of consistency," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "It's something that we really do take great pride in because of the implications for the playoffs."

Russell Wilson threw three touchdown passes, Tyler Lockett had 130 yards receiving and a score, and the Seahawks won the NFC West with a 24-3 victory over the Los Angeles Rams on Thursday night.

Seattle claimed its third division title in four seasons, assuring itself of at least one home game in the playoffs and keeping the pressure on Detroit in the competition for the No. 2 seed in the NFC and a first-round bye. Seattle also snapped a three-game losing streak to the Rams.

Seattle became the first team in the NFL to clinch its division, the result of playing in the NFC West in a season where no one was particularly good. The Seahawks have their shortcomings, which were shown again against the Rams. Seattle simply had more tools than anyone else in the division to overcome their flaws.

It wasn't a completely smooth evening for the Seahawks. Richard Sherman was seen yelling toward coaches on the sideline in the third quarter moments before Doug Baldwin's 1-yard touchdown catch. Sherman said he was expressing his displeasure toward Carroll with the decision to throw on first-and-goal from the 1, a pass by Wilson that was nearly intercepted.

"We've already seen how that goes. I'm sure you guys have seen that play enough times," Sherman said.

It wasn't an impressive display by Seattle (9-4-1), but was far better than Sunday when the Seahawks were blown out by Green Bay with Wilson throwing five interceptions.

Wilson was good enough against the listless Rams. After slogging through the first half, Wilson threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Doug Baldwin late in the third quarter for a 17-3 lead, then put the game away on a 57-yard touchdown strike to Lockett on the second play of the fourth quarter.

Wilson finished 19 of 26 for 229 yards, but also threw a careless interception at the goal line midway through the fourth quarter. Seven of those passes went to Lockett, whose previous career high was 104 yards. Luke Willson also had an 8-yard TD catch in the first half.

Another mostly forgettable Thursday night game was made at least somewhat more entertaining by the Seahawks and their highlighter green uniforms that drew wild opinions all over social media. The "Action Green" uniforms had very little action in the first half, before a second-half effort that assured another banner would be raised at CenturyLink Field.

A tumultuous few days for the Rams (4-10) after the firing of Jeff Fisher as head coach culminated in their fifth straight loss and first under interim coach John Fassel. The Rams' defensive front caused problems for Seattle in the first half but the Los Angeles offense provided zero help.

"It's just a lesson for me that you always have to be ready to adapt and take on responsibilities that you didn't anticipate," Fassel said. "But it's an experience that of course I'll never forget."

Jared Goff was 13 of 25 for 135 yards before leaving in the fourth quarter to be checked for a possible concussion. The Rams finished with 183 total yards, but 90 of those came in the fourth quarter.

QUIET GURLEY

Los Angeles running back Todd Gurley was again unable to get started in the run game, continuing a frustrating second season. Gurley was held to 38 yards on 14 carries. He did have a 22-yard run late in the second quarter that set up Greg Zuerlein's 36-yard field goal, but it as just his second run of 20 yards or more this season. Gurley had 11 runs of 20 or more yards last year.

"There is no reason Gurley should get hit the way he gets hit sometimes because we don't set up a block for him," Los Angeles offensive lineman Rodger Saffold said.

SACK ATTACK

After getting no pressure on the quarterback in the past three weeks, the Seahawks rediscovered their pass rush.

Seattle had two sacks in the first half and finished with four after the Seahawks had five total sacks in the previous five weeks. Cliff Avril was the main culprit with 1 1/2 sacks, giving him a career-high 11 1/2 for the season.

INJURY REPORT

Seattle defensive end Michael Bennett suffered neck strain in the fourth quarter on a collision with Gurley, Carroll said. A few plays later, Goff was taken from the game to be checked for a concussion after a sideline hit by Richard Sherman. He was replaced by Case Keenum.

Even Seattle punter Jon Ryan got added to the injury list after suffering concussion in the fourth quarter on a fake punt. Ryan ran 26 yards before bobbling the ball and getting hit in the helmet falling to the turf.

Yankees' Chapman: Cubs' Maddon misused me during postseason

NEW YORK (AP) — Aroldis Chapman says Cubs manager Joe Maddon misused him during the postseason, putting the hard-throwing reliever on the mound too often in Chicago's successful effort to win the World Series for the first time since 1908.

Traded from the New York Yankees to Chicago in late July, Chapman got the victory in Game 7 against Cleveland after wasting an eighth-inning lead. He became a free agent and agreed to an $86 million, five-year contract to return to the Yankees, a deal finalized Thursday.

"I think he was wrong in the way he used me. He abused a little bit on how much he made me pitch, and sometimes he made me pitch when I didn't need to pitch," Chapman said Friday. "But he's the manager. He knows his stuff. He manages the way he knows, the way he wants and the way he wants to win. It was his decision, and my duty is to be prepared. I prepare myself to be strong, so that my arm is healthy. Thank God I was able to do the job, and I could pitch the way he wanted me to."

The left-hander from Cuba threw 273 pitches in 13 postseason appearances, including 42 over 2 2/3 innings in Game 5, when he got his first eight-out save in the Cubs' 3-2 win.

He threw 20 on one day's rest to get four outs in Game 6, then 35 more in Game 7 when he entered with a 6-3 lead and allowed Brandon Guyer's RBI double and Rajai Davis' two-run homer.

Asked for an example of misuse, Chapman cited Game 6, when he entered with a 7-2 lead in the bottom of the seventh with two on and two outs. Francisco Lindor hit a grounder to first and originally was called safe, a ruling reversed when a video review concluded Chapman beat him to the bag after catching Anthony Rizzo's throw.

AP

In this Sept. 19, 2016, file photo, then-Chicago Cubs closing pitcher Aroldis Chapman (54) celebrates with manager Joe Maddon after defeating the Cincinnati Reds 5-2 during a baseball game in Chicago.

Chapman stayed in to start the bottom of the ninth with Chicago ahead by seven runs, then was replaced by Pedro Strop after a leadoff walk.

"I don't think I needed to come into the game," Chapman said. "Looking forward, the important game was going to be Game 7 because basically we had that game almost won. Then I had to pitch on Game 7 and I was a little tired. I felt a little different. It's not the same. I could go out to pitch, do my job, but you're not as efficient if you're tired."

AGAPE

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In the sprint category, which covered a 5K run, 20K bike, and 2.5K run, Nap Dizon, Ayano Braxton, and Fast & Furious were the winners in their respective divisions.

Dizon ruled the men's field after checking in at 1:12:57. Saipan Swim Club's Taiga Sato placed second after logging 1:13:17, while Nick Villalor completed the Top 3 after posting 1:17:45. Twenty-three other individuals finished the division race.

In the women's event, Braxton recorded 1:27:56 to lead the podium finishers, which also included Kathy Ruszala (1:38:03) and Mamiko Berger (1:38:21). In the relay, the Fast & Furious (1:15:31) prevailed against Agape Hutu (1:16:09), DFS Girls (1:37:04), and DFS 1 (1:41:35).

KAGMAN

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fastbreak layup. He went for another fastbreak basket after a missed offensive set from Southern, but overshot his mark. Fortunately, Juan Quitugua was there for the trailer and the put-back to move the Ayuyus within 2, 47-49, 46.8 seconds left on the clock.

Another botched attempt from Southern gave the ball back to Kagman, which found a way to feed big man Dean Blake in the paint against the tight defense of the Manta Rays and the Ayuyus center nailed the equalizer, 49-all, 33.2 seconds remaining in the game.

Greg Sablan tried to return the favor to Blake when he drove baseline, but he was too deep under the basket and faltered. There was a battle for the loose ball after yet another miss from Southern and Blake won. He was also fouled by N-Nes Siech, who reached in trying to steal the possession. Blake canned he first free throw, but muffed the second one, giving Kagman a shaky lead, 17.5 left in Game 1.

After Blake's miss, Southern had a chance to regain the upper hand when Coby Santos sprinted to their frontcourt and unloaded a fastbreak shot. However, his attempt was too strong. Santos then got the rebound and handed the ball to Jun Alipio, who was fouled by Blake. Alipio had a split, drilling his second charity to force the deadlock, 8.9 ticks to go in the match.

After Alipio hit his second charity, Kagman quickly inbounded the ball and Ogumoro attacked the defense of Siech, who fell on the floor and had a double whammy as he was charged with a blocking foul. Ogumoro, who was scoreless before he trooped to the foul line for the important free throws, drilled his first charity and muffed the second one.

After Ogumoro's miss, Southern was pressed to hurry down to its frontcourt and Alipio, with the clock ticking, attempted a mid-range jumper from the left baseline, but was blocked by Joey Cruz. The ball went out and the Manta Rays were left with 0.5 of a second to pull up for a Hail Mary. Kagman guarded the paint well in the dying seconds of the match, forcing Alipio to throw the ball out to Paragados, but the lob was intercepted by Quitugua and time expired.

With Kagman eking out the closing win, the Ayuyus were scheduled to challenge the Manta Rays anew 15 minutes after Game 1 concluded last Saturday. Results of the deciding Game 2 will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition.

Game 1

KHS 51— Blake 16, Castro 16, Quitugua 12, Cruz 4, Reyes 2, Ogumoro 1.

SSHS 50 — Alipio 13, Sablan 12, Santos 6, Cobacha 6, Paragados 5, Kapileo 4, Siech 4.

Scoring by quarters: 14-13, 31-28, 38-38, 51-50.

KNIGHTS

From Page 28

bers was next for WPS/BSS and his first attempt was pushed out by Toves, who was later called for a violation, giving the former another try. Chamber's second shot, however, also did not make it in, as the ball went over Toves' head and the goalie tossed it back out.

Toves had his third straight defensive stop when he kicked out the ball that Max Church hit. Toves then made the game-winning save when he used his knees to block the ball that Dane Hodges kicked. WPS/BSS' fifth shooter did not make an attempt as Mt. Carmel had already secured the victory behind Bachani and Naraja's goals.

"Those guys (Bachani and Naraja) were able to redeem themselves in the finals after missing their penalty shots in our semis games. I am happy that they were able to deliver when we needed them the most," MCS team manager Catherine Attao-Toves said.

Catherine also commended the efforts of his son, Merrick, who provided leadership to the team, having been the oldest player on the squad.

"He always helps his teammates and encourages them to play harder each game. He started out as a striker and we moved him in different positions all throughout the season, but I did not hear him complain. In the penalty shootout, we felt that he is the best and the most experienced player that we could put in the goal and he delivered," Catherine said.

Overall, the Knights team manager was impressed with all the players' performance this season.

"Everybody did their share in this victory, playing defense, hustling for the ball, cheering for their teammates while they are not playing or helping them after getting bumped in a play. This win is a product of team effort. We gave everyone a chance to play and every time they went on the pitch, they were focused and tried their best to contribute to the team," added Catherine, who greeted her players heading out of the pitch after the title win with hugs and high-fives.

The festive mood in last Saturday's finale was in contrast of the 2015 season's championship match where some of the Knights players were seen wiping away tears as they fell to WSR, also in a shootout, 1-3.

"Mt. Carmel managed to redeem itself from that heartbreaker last season. I am happy for the players and we would like to thank Northern Mariana Islands Football Association for putting up a league, even for a short season, to give our student-athletes a chance to play and enjoy the game," Catherine said.

The Knights, who are coached by John Diego Masga, used a 13-player roster for the IFL. Joining Merrick, Naraja, and Bachani on the squad were Markus Toves, Christian Guerrero, Leland Deleon Guerrero, Andrew Sablan, Devin Propst, Dylan Santos, Ruben Guerrero, Vicente Reyes, Roco Bellavia, and Vidal Sablan.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	18	8	.692	—
Boston	14	12	.538	4
New York	14	13	.519	4½
Brooklyn	7	18	.280	10½
Philadelphia	6	20	.231	12

Southeast Division

Charlotte	15	13	.536	—
Atlanta	13	14	.481	1½
Washington	11	14	.440	2½
Orlando	12	16	.429	3
Miami	9	18	.333	5½

Central Division

Cleveland	19	6	.760	—
Milwaukee	13	12	.520	6
Indiana	14	14	.500	6½
Chicago	13	13	.500	6½
Detroit	14	15	.483	7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	21	5	.808	—
Houston	21	7	.750	1
Memphis	18	10	.643	4
New Orleans	9	19	.321	13
Dallas	6	20	.231	15

Northwest Division

Utah	17	10	.630	—
Oklahoma City	16	11	.593	1
Portland	13	16	.448	5
Denver	11	16	.407	6
Minnesota	7	19	.269	9½

Pacific Division

Golden State	24	4	.857	—
L.A. Clippers	20	7	.741	3½
Sacramento	10	16	.385	13
L.A. Lakers	11	19	.367	14
Phoenix	8	19	.296	15½

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Westbrook, OKC	27	272	228	820	30.4
Davis, NOR	26	277	216	786	30.2
DeRozan, TOR	26	261	201	735	28.3
Cousins, SAC	25	241	179	702	28.1
Harden, HOU	28	225	240	775	27.7
Lillard, POR	29	257	205	796	27.4
Thomas, BOS	22	177	170	572	26.0
Durant, GOL	28	253	162	722	25.8
James, CLE	23	212	114	575	25.0
Butler, CHI	26	197	220	644	24.8
Curry, GOL	28	225	136	692	24.7
Leonard, SAN	26	213	161	636	24.5
Wall, WAS	23	199	126	556	24.2
Irving, CLE	23	205	80	547	23.8
Antetokounmpo, MIL	25	210	127	564	22.6
Hayward, UTA	20	146	122	449	22.4
Walker, CHA	27	216	102	606	22.4
Anthony, NYK	26	207	116	580	22.3
Love, CLE	24	171	129	534	22.2
Towns, MIN	26	219	102	575	22.1

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Gobert, UTA	109	161	.677
Jordan, LAC	120	184	.652
Capela, HOU	151	236	.640
Howard, ATL	146	231	.632
Zeller, CHA	105	179	.587
Adams, OKC	127	217	.585
Gortat, WAS	121	213	.568
Jokic, DEN	104	187	.556
Kanter, OKC	133	243	.547
Gibson, CHI	139	257	.541

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Whiteside, MIA	27	115	283	398	14.7
Drummond, DET	28	108	276	384	13.7
Howard, ATL	26	121	218	339	13.0
Jordan, LAC	27	94	253	347	12.9
Gortat, WAS	25	86	213	299	12.0
Gobert, UTA	27	86	227	313	11.6
Davis, NOR	26	47	243	290	11.2
Towns, MIN	26	87	198	285	11.0
Vucevic, ORL	25	64	209	273	10.9
Cousins, SAC	25	58	213	271	10.8

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Harden, HOU	28	331	11.8
Westbrook, OKC	27	298	11.0
Wall, WAS	23	221	9.6
Paul, LAC	27	255	9.4
James, CLE	23	208	9.0
Frazier, NOR	27	202	7.5
Green, GOL	27	198	7.3
Lowry, TOR	26	189	7.3
Teague, IND	28	196	7.0
Rondo, CHI	22	152	6.9

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

		L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	11	2	0	.846	349	230
Miami	9	5	0	.643	315	314
Buffalo	6	7	0	.462	325	301
N.Y. Jets	4	10	0	.286	242	358

South

Houston	7	6	0	.538	229	274
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	321	306
Indianapolis	6	7	0	.462	328	333
Jacksonville	2	11	0	.154	240	338

North

Pittsburgh	8	5	0	.615	317	256
Baltimore	7	6	0	.538	279	237
Cincinnati	5	7	1	.423	268	269
Cleveland	0	13	0	.000	207	375

West

Kansas City	10	3	0	.769	302	255
Oakland	10	3	0	.769	358	320
Denver	8	5	0	.615	296	242
San Diego	5	8	0	.385	350	347

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

x-Dallas	11	2	0	.846	340	238
N.Y. Giants	9	4	0	.692	255	244
Washington	7	5	1	.577	330	317
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	290	272

South

Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	428	345
Tampa Bay	8	5	0	.615	293	296
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	358	351
Carolina	5	8	0	.385	311	337

North

Detroit	9	4	0	.692	295	268
Green Bay	7	6	0	.538	333	312
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	258	225
Chicago	3	10	0	.231	221	290

West

y-Seattle	9	4	1	.679	298	235
Arizona	5	7	1	.423	299	277
Los Angeles	4	10	0	.286	197	328
San Francisco	1	12	0	.077	251	393

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COPSSA Volleyball League Girls High School Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School players exchange high-fives with Saipan International School players after their title game in the girls high school division of the 2016-2017 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mt. Carmel School's Kiona Camacho bends sideways for a return.

Saipan International School's Gillian Villagomez bumps the ball.

A Saipan International School player makes a return.

Mt. Carmel School's Karleen Reyes jumps for a return.

Saipan International and Mt. Carmel School players battle in the net.

Mt. Carmel School's Jan Travilla tosses the ball.

Saipan International and Mt. Carmel School players wait for the serve.

Westbrook claims 50th career triple-double; Thunder top Suns

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Sports

Moore sets career high with 4 TDs as Miami routs Jets

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Knights win first IFL crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Finally, Mt. Carmel School reigned supreme in the NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League.

The Knights clinched the boys division championship of the 2016 season after beating Whispering Palms School/Brilliant Star School in a shootout in the finals, 2-0, last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Leo Naraja and Dev Bachani delivered the goals in the penalty shootout, while keeper Merrick Toves made the defensive stops to hand Mt. Carmel its first title in the IFL. With its victory this season, the Knights' name will be etched in the perpetual trophy alongside two-time champions William S. Reyes Elementary School (2012 and 2015), Koblerville Elementary School (2008), Saipan Community School (2009 and 2010), Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School (2011), Saipan International School (2014), and Whispering Palms (2013).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School's Merrick Toves, left, scans the pitch before making a pass, while Whispering Palms School/Brilliant Star School's Casey Chambers tries to catch up on defense during their title game in the 2016 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Whispering Palms players joined forces with Brilliant Star School this season, but missed the championship as their shooters were frustrated by Toves—the tallest player on the field who used his long arms and legs to deflect the ball.

Dylan Mister took the first attempt for WPS/BSS, but overshot his mark as his ball went too wide to the goalie's right. Mister was also the keeper in the shootout and held his ground against the first two MCS shooters. Casey Cham-

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Kagman vs Southern in rubbermatch

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kagman High School escaped with a 51-50 victory over Saipan Southern High School in Game 1 of their title duel in the 2016 Public School System Basketball Tournament to force a rubbermatch last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ayuyus overhauled a 6-point deficit in the last two minutes and extended the finals after drawing a split free throw from Aaron Ogumoro and making two defense stops in the closing seconds of Game 1.

Southern, which had a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals after sweeping its first three games in the winner's bracket, posted its biggest lead in Game 1, 49-43, after Roberto Paragados completed a 3-point play.

Kagman sued for time after that and when the game resumed, it began working its way back into the match with Jeff Castro starting the rally after knocking in a

See KAGMAN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kagman High School's Juan Quitugua drives against a Saipan Southern High School defender during the second quarter of Game 1 of their title duel in the PSS caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Agape student leads Saipan Duathlon winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School's Caleb Wang topped the men's standard distance division of last Saturday's Bridge Capital LLC Saipan Duathlon 2016.

Wang completed the 10K run, 40K bike, and 5K run in Marpi in 2:27:17 to beat early favorite Charlie Sendin and newcomer Joel Phair, who clocked in at 2:27:43 and 2:30:08, respectively, to round out the Top 3. Four other individuals competed in the men's standard division with Von Adrian Libayan timing in at 2:34:20 to place fourth and Ronald Villafria (2:43:02), Rhenmer Remillosa (3:12:03), and Raymond Tolentino (3:34:49), completing the finishers list.

In the women's division, Emily Nothrop was the lone competitor to brave the longest race last weekend and she timed in at 2:35:25, the fifth best time in the standard division.

In the relay event, Riding in Tandem came in at first after crossing the finish line at the 2:33:07. Team Godfather and Enrile's Finest were ranked second and third after submitting 2:35:3 and 2:40:02, respectively. Tanapag Boys 2 (2:46:00), Tsamba (2:54:58), Young & Restless (2:59:12), Team BSI (2:59:29), and Tanapag Boys 1 (3:03:34) were the other finishers in the team event of the standard division.

See AGAPE on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Caleb Wang, center, is joined in the podium by Charlie Sendin, left, and Joel Phair, during the awarding of medals for the Bridge Capital LLC Saipan Duathlon 2016 held last Saturday in Marpi.